Plus! Hot tickets—and bites—for Spoleto Festival *(see page 124)*

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May 2023

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Painting the Town

(Our Annual Arts Issue)

Four passionate locals driving creativity and community

A salute to Charleston Stage founder Julian Wiles

Hed Hi Studio owner Tim McManus outside the Upper King Street complex he's turned into a public art corridor (see page 88)

"THERE WAS THIS KIND OF CREATIVE ENERGY THAT WAS SWIRLING AROUND THAT AFTERNOON, AND I REMEMBER [THINKING] IF WE CAN REPLICATE THIS AND KEEP IT GOING, THEN IT'S NOT A MISTAKE." *(See page 88)*

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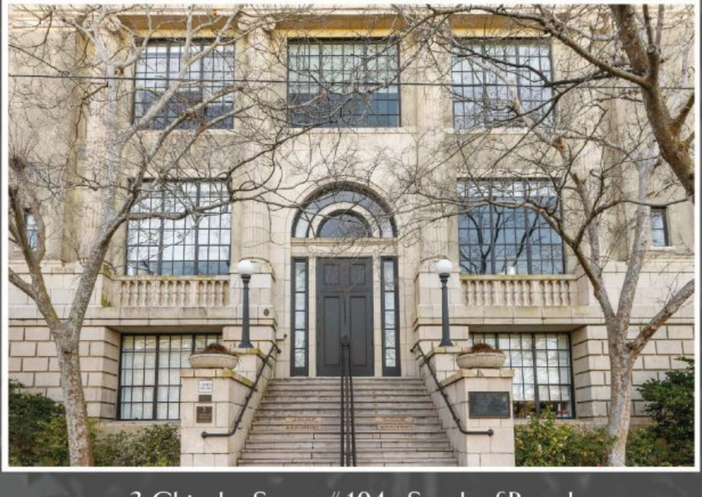

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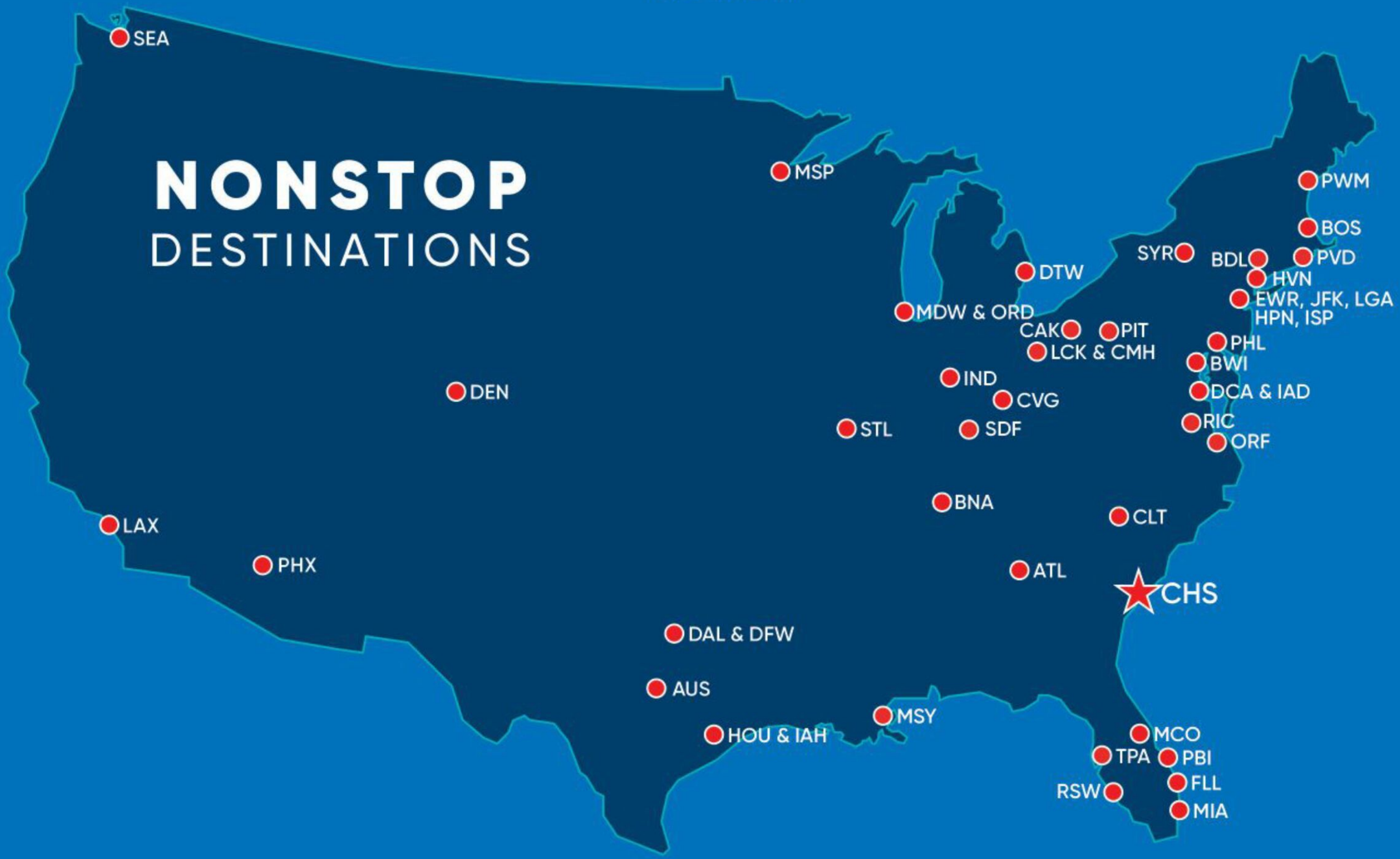

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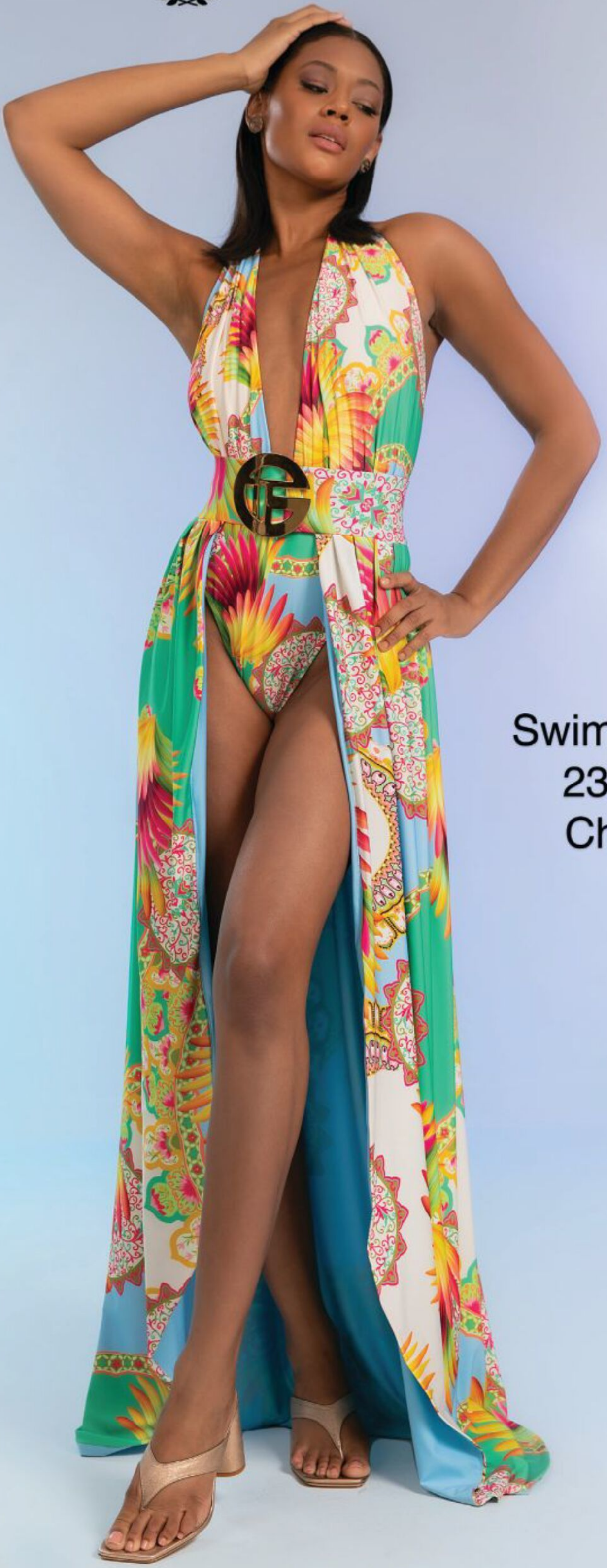

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Cover: Hed Hi owner Tim McManus by a mural painted by Miami street artist HOXXOH on the backside of the studio; photograph by Aleece Sophia

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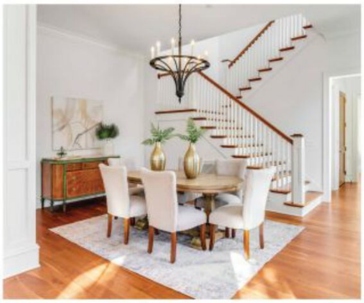

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY (LAFAYE BENTON) KATRINA CRAWFORD PHOTOGRAPHY & (OWL) CAROLINE MCCARRON & COURTESY OF (BROKEN SPEAKERS) CAMPBELL BROWN & (CUFF) CROGHAN'S JEWEL BOX

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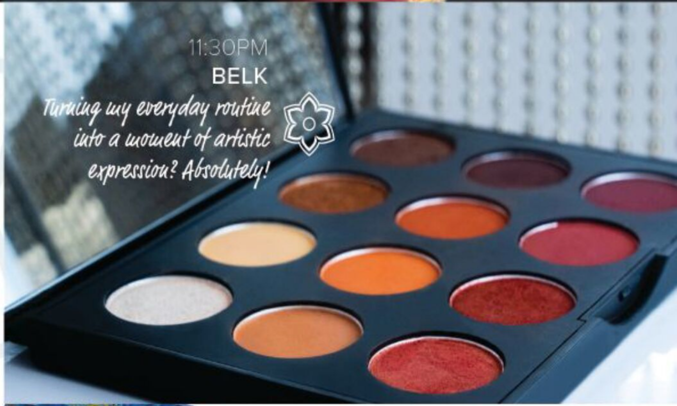

11:30PM
BELK
Turning my everyday routine into a moment of artistic expression? Absolutely!

12:15PM | **BARNES & NOBLE**
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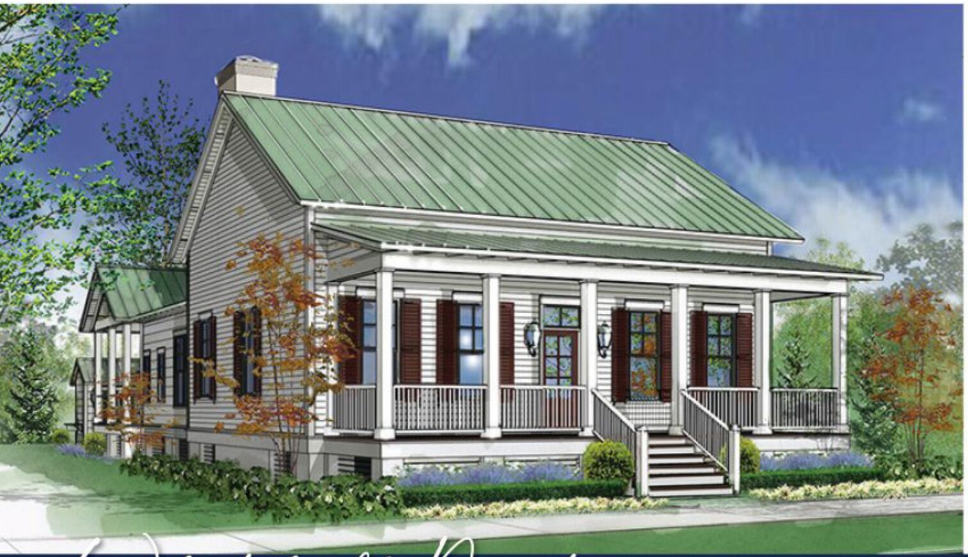

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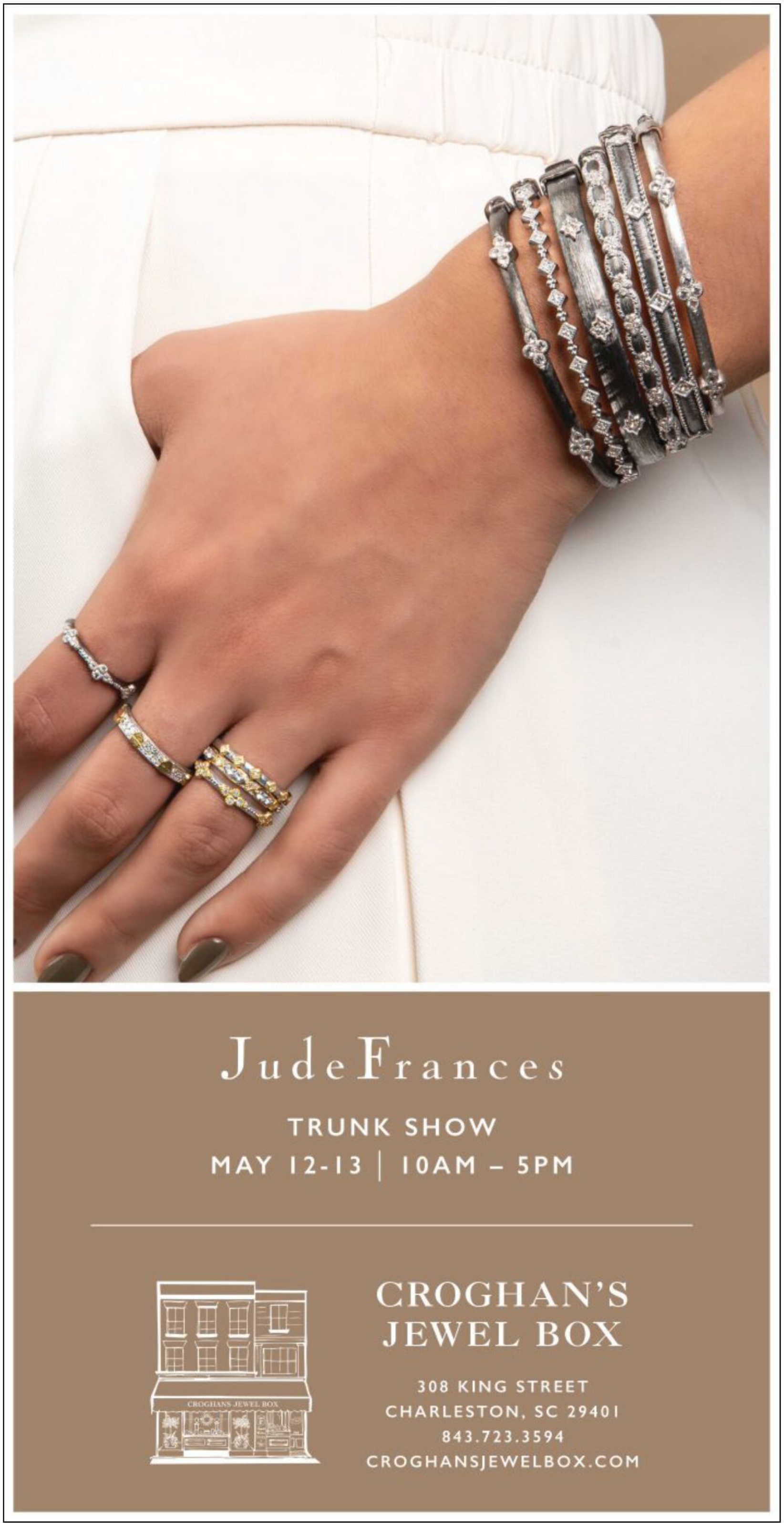

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"When reporting 'Owl Mania' [page 54], I was surprised to find that the owlets didn't look like owls at all—more like baby dinosaurs, with faces only mothers could love."

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"I'm already a fangirl of Kate, Zandrina, and Terry, but I'm excited to learn more about Tim McManus and Hed Hi Studio ['Propelling the Arts,' page 88]. Here's to the propellers!"

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STEPHANIE BARNA, STANFIELD GRAY, HARLAN GREENE, ROBIN HOWARD, STEPHANIE HUNT, LAUREN BROOKS JOHNSON, SANDY LANG, STRATTON LAWRENCE, JENNIFER PATTISON TUOHY, & JEFF WILKINSON

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"When it's time to grab a cocktail or bite during Spoleto, I could definitely use a refresher on where to go and still have time to make the performance." (Quick Bite, page 124)

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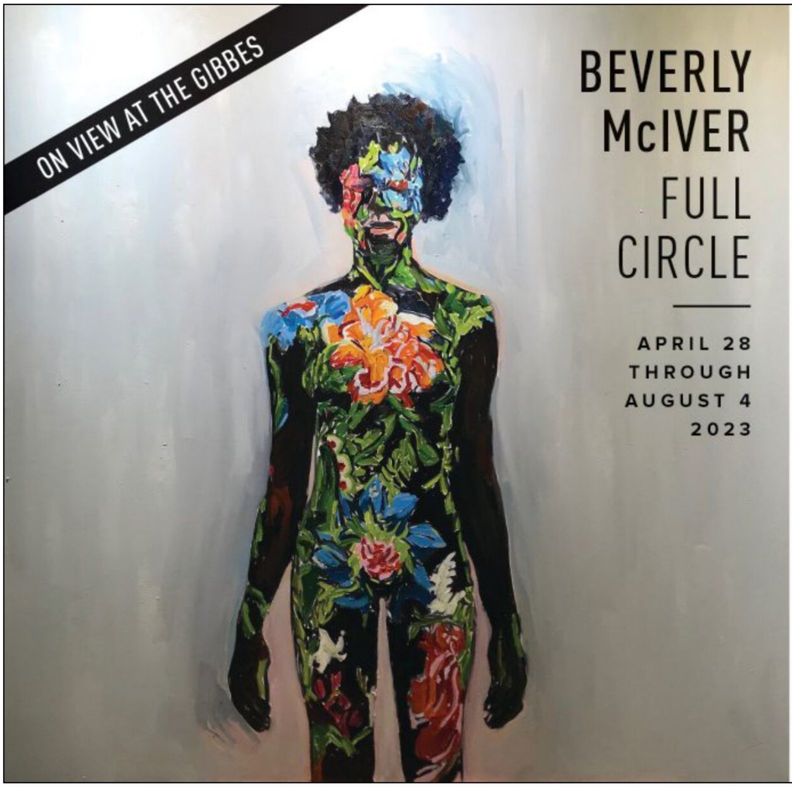
ON VIEW AT THE GIBBES

BEVERLY McIVER
FULL CIRCLE

APRIL 28
THROUGH
AUGUST 4
2023

Beverly McIver: Full Circle is organized by the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and curated by Kim Boganey, Arts and Culture Manager, Museum of History and Art, Ontario, California. Generously supported by Wells Fargo Wealth & Investment Management; with additional exhibition support provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and Craven Allen Gallery.

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IMAGE: *Black Girl Beauty*, 2018, by Beverly McIver. Oil on canvas. Collection of Matthew Polk and Amy Gould, Maryland.

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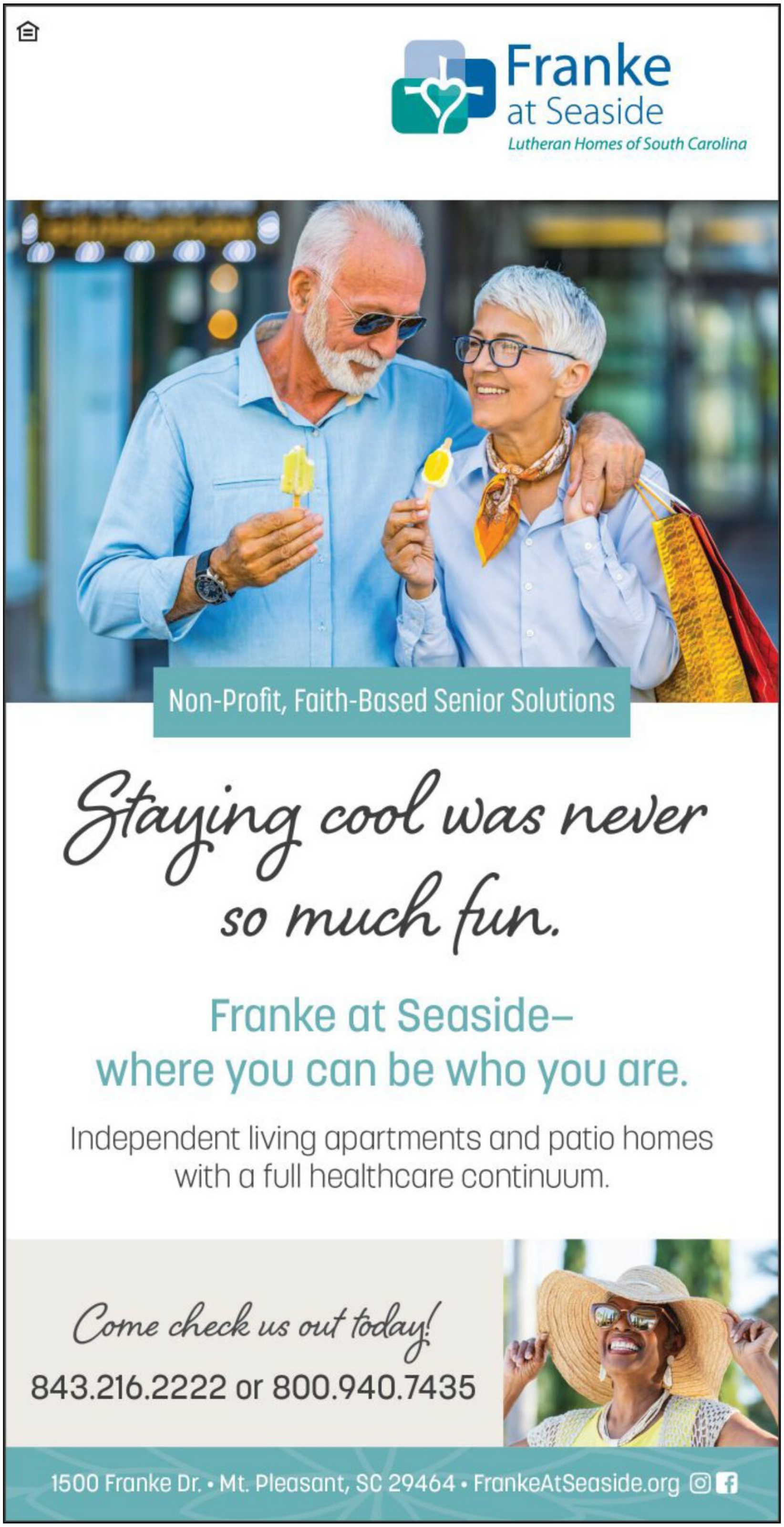

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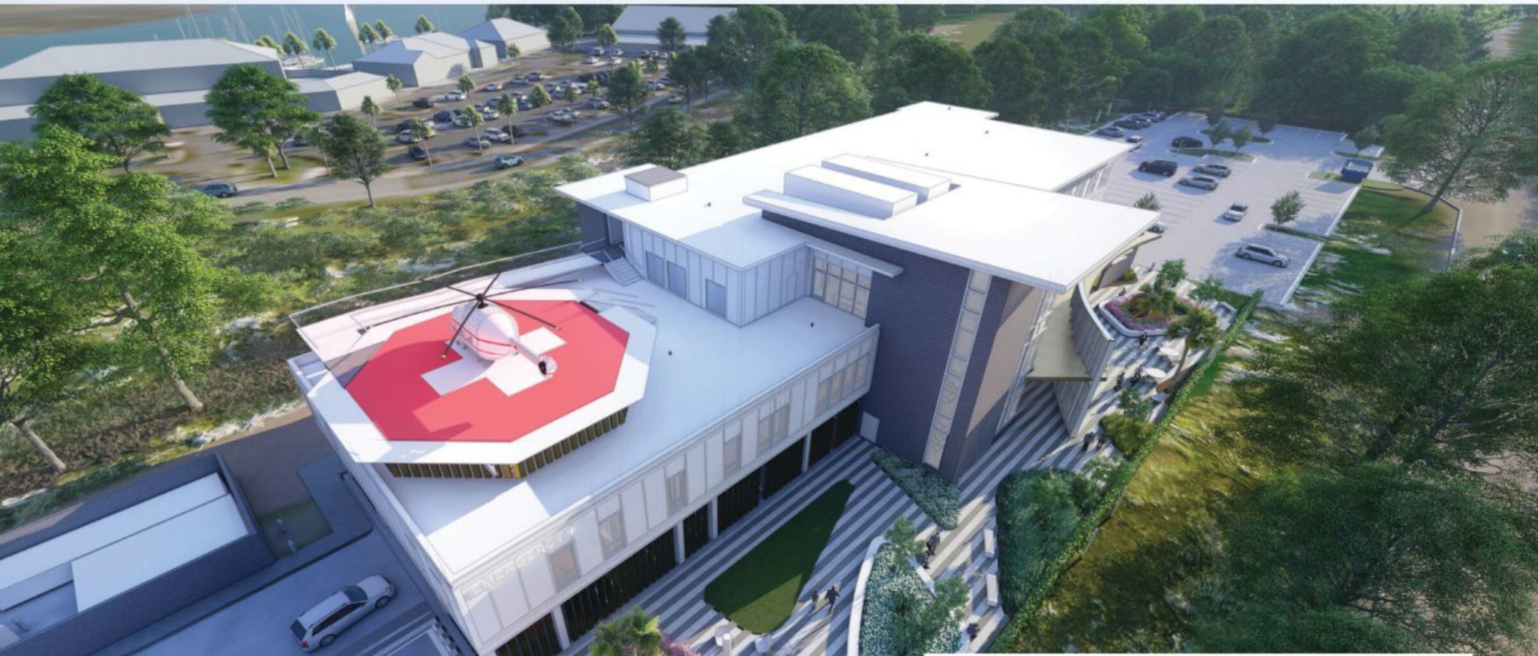

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Art Works

Charleston's art scene seems to be having a moment. Not even two years out of pandemic lockdown, and most any night of the week we can take in a concert, attend live theater, go to an exhibition opening, or listen to an artist lecture—and that's before the deluge of performances that are the Spoleto and Piccolo Spoleto festivals. These opportunities haven't just rebounded, it seems they've expanded, and I, for one, am beyond grateful. ***A thriving arts scene equals an interesting, engaging, multilayered community, with a level of authenticity derived not only from artists but creative thinkers as well.***

Take our cover guy, Tim McManus, a surf- and street-art aficionado and owner of a local video production company with a cool studio space. When COVID hit and bookings dried up, he channeled his energy into curating "pop-up" art exhibits, showcasing some lesser known talents and bringing new life to that stretch of Upper King. And then there's Ohm Radio host and singer Zandrina Dunning, who recognized that music could be a vehicle for recovery, launching the P.U.R.E. (Peace, Unity, and Revival through Entertainment) concerts in fall 2020. That series, featuring local singers and musicians, continues into its fourth season this year. Read about McManus, Dunning, and other advocates fostering creativity and community in "Propelling the Arts" (page 88).

Also in this issue, we salute local arts stalwart Julian Wiles, the Charleston Stage founding director who takes his final bow this month as he retires after 45 years. In The Charleston Profile (page 98), learn how the newly minted MFA in dramatic art created what is now a veritable institution, in residence at the country's oldest theater. And, in the first of our new travel series, "One-Flight Wonders" (page 108), travel editor Sandy Lang takes us to St. Petersburg, Florida, a Gulf Coast city that she describes as "still funky, but with a new vibrancy based on impressive cultural investments in the arts."

Enjoy!

dshankland@charlestonmag.com

ANNE RHETT

Plus! Hot tickets—and bites—for Spoleto Festival (see page 124)
The City Magazine Since 1975
charleston
Painting the Town
Our Annual Arts Issue
Four passionate locals drive creativity and community
A salute to Charleston Stage founder Julian Wiles

ALEECE SOPHIA

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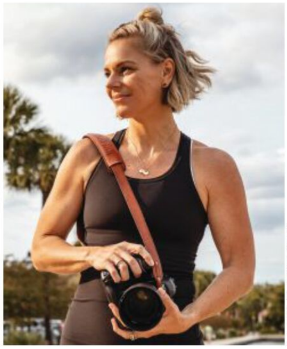

JUSTIN TUCKER

ALICE KEENEY

"Zandrina's energy is electric. I always consider it such a treat to photograph a performance artist; I joke that it's like getting my own private show!"

PHOTOGRAPHER: "Propelling the Arts" (page 88)

CHARLESTON'S ART SCENE IS: "Vibrant, ever-changing, inspiring"

SPOLETO MUST: "Ebony Bones at the Cistern—there's something magical about a performance among the oaks on a spring eve, and it sounds like the fashion will be just as amazing."

SEE MORE WORK: AliceKeeney.com

STEPHANIE HUNT

"Spending time with Julian Wiles underscores my belief that the creative life is always worth pursuing. He has found true joy in his life's work—oh, to be so lucky."

WRITER: "Charleston Staged" (page 98)

CURRENT PROJECTS: "Just finished the manuscript for a second coffee-table book for Hearst Books"

CHARLESTON'S ART SCENE IS: "Robustly rich and rewarding"

SPOLETO MUST: "The Geoff Nuttall memorial concert"

SEE MORE WORK: StephanieHuntWrites.com

NOEL HUNT

PETER FRANK EDWARDS

SANDY LANG

"The Tampa flight was my first on Breeze, and I immediately booked another—thrilled that Charleston has new airline options."

WRITER: "One-Flight Wonders: Tampa Bay" (page 108)

CURRENT PROJECTS: "Planning 2023 travels and stories, plus brand messaging and website copy for clients in Nashville, Atlanta, New England, and the Carolinas"

SPOLETO MUST: "The high-flying acrobatics of Australian physical theater company Gravity & Other Myths"

SEE MORE WORK: SandyLang.net, @tinysuitcase

PETER FRANK EDWARDS

"For a quick and easy one-flight getaway destination, St. Pete/Tampa is tough to beat! In less than two hours, you're in an entirely new, culturally rich, and delicious pair of cities."

PHOTOGRAPHER: "One-Flight Wonders: Tampa Bay" (page 108)

CURRENT PROJECTS: "A cookbook with Vera Stewart, plus shoots for *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Garden & Gun*, and *Southern Living*"

CHARLESTON'S ART SCENE IS: "Rich, interesting, diverse"

SEE MORE WORK: PFEPhoto.com

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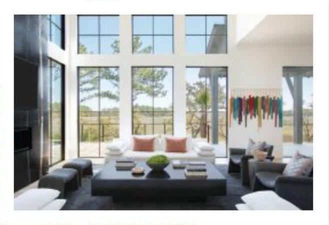
Talk *of the* Town

Letters, e-mails, posts, tweets, & more



{ Outside the Box }

Our March Charleston Home featured the "Black House" on Daniel Island, a contemporary stunner designed to blend into its natural surroundings, while subtly standing out.

You replied:
>> "What a refreshing change in the Charleston design scene!" —@thecharlestongrove
>> "I drive by all the time for motivation and inspiration!" —@Pat Tang
>> "Love the organic feel of the fireplace wall, that slab selection feels like a landscape of tall, slender trees mimicking the exterior." —@Lynn Hallaba
>> "Great interior design for a spectacular home. Every piece brings out the stunning home's features." —@Craig McCluskey

GATHER 'ROUND

For our February Giving Back, we spoke with Transformation Table founder Tina Singleton, whose dinners connect people from different backgrounds, communities, and experiences.

You responded:
>> "We're so grateful for the opportunity and love what we do with this community. See y'all soon!" **—@transformationtable**
>> "Food unites us for sure. Now I can't stop thinking about that crab dip my aunt used to make when we'd hang out at my grandparents house on Folly growing up." **—@faustihere**
>> "Tina Singleton and Transformation Table are a rare find in this age of division and distrust. Our community is so fortunate to have Tina and her team of visionaries working to bring people together over great food and important conversation." **—@Laurie Sue**

SUBSCRIBER SUCCESS

Charleston Magazine Club member Teresa Barnett e-mailed to share a photo (right) of the strawberry-lemon bread she made from the recipe in our April 2023 "Heart & Soil" feature on the local strawberry harvest, writing:

"Strawberry-lemon bread featured in the magazine! It was so easy, so quick, and so delicious."

Thanks Teresa—bet it tastes as good as it looks!

[SUPPORT SYSTEM]

We posted a link to our March Giving Back article, which shared the inspirational story of sex-trafficking survivor Kate Wehunt, who founded The Formation Project to help women and men escape exploitative situations and rebuild their lives.

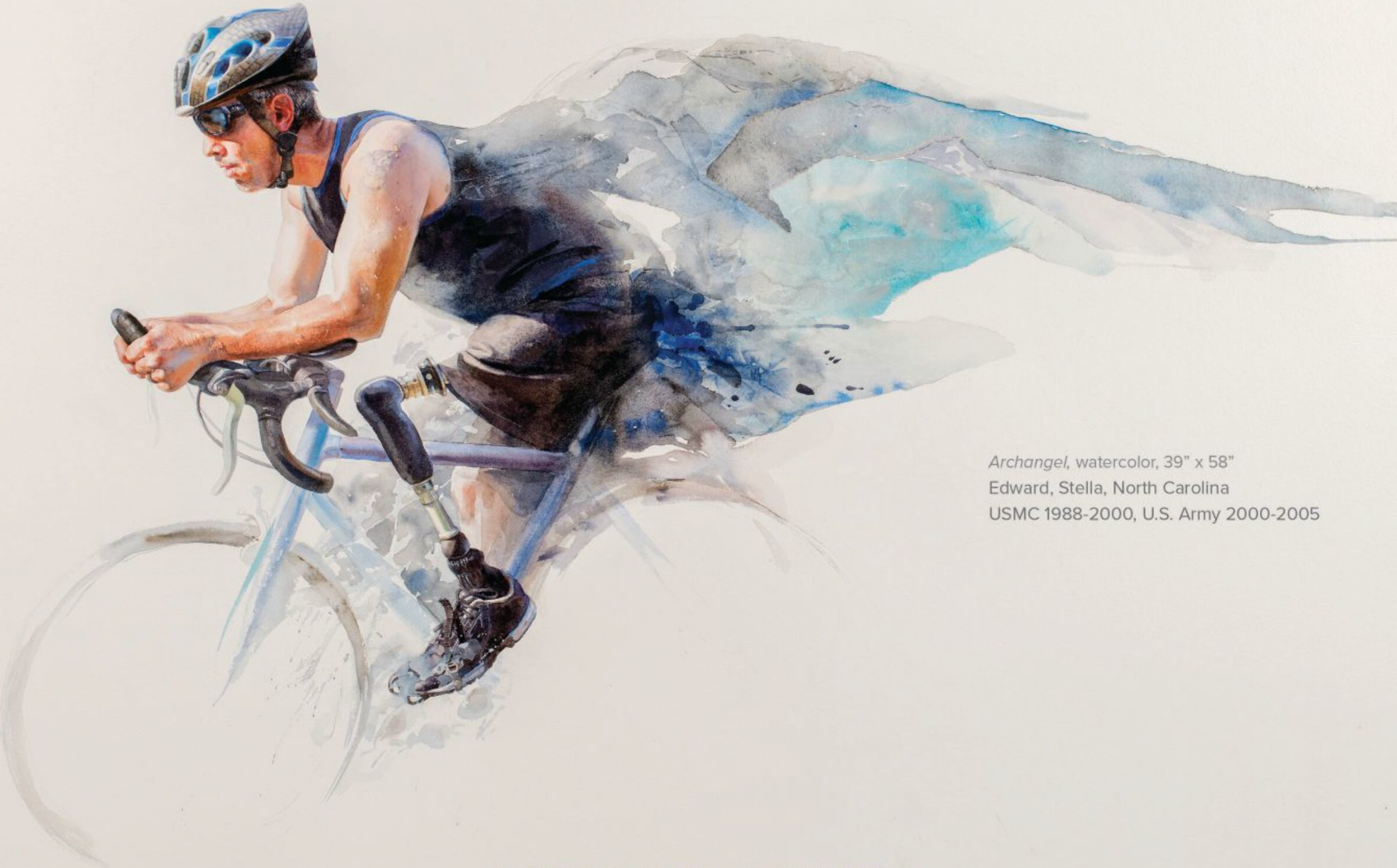
You commented:
>> "This organization is amazing! So many caring people coming together to make a change!" **—@ksa_1968**
>> "Child and adult sex trafficking is happening at epidemic levels globally and must be eradicated. Thank you for speaking out." **—@gryphonestatesilver**
>> "Thank you for shining a light on this issue." **—@maggie_and_asi_cats**

Share Your Two Cents

Send comments to editor-in-chief Darcy Shankland: e-mail dshankland@charlestonmag.com or mail to P.O. Box 1794, Mount Pleasant, SC, 29465. Post at charlestonmag.com, write on our wall at facebook.com/charlestonmag, or tweet to @charlestonmag. All correspondence is considered for publication and may be edited for length and clarity.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (HOME EXTERIOR) KEEN EYE MARKETING, (HOME INTERIOR) MARGARET WRIGHT, (TINA SINGLETON) JB MCCABE, & (BREAD) TERESA BARNETT & COURTESY OF (KATE WEHUNT) THE FORMATION PROJECT

Mary Whyte
WE THE PEOPLE



Archangel, watercolor, 39" x 58"
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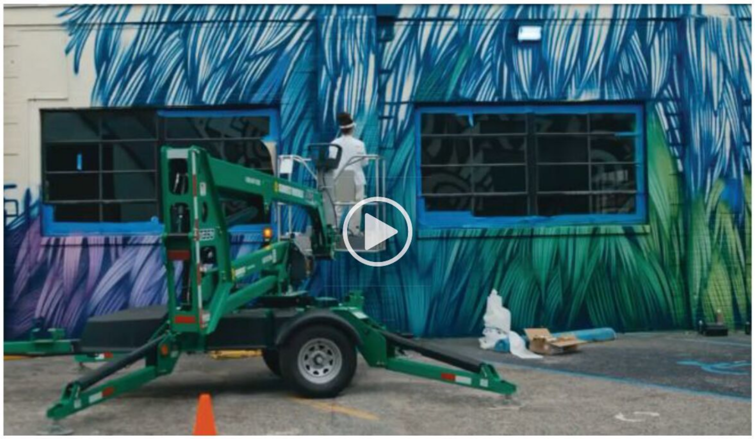

Bright Ideas Meet some enthusiastic local arts advocates, including street art curator and cover guy Tim McManus ("Propelling the Arts," page 88). Then see videos of the murals on his Upper King Street studio complex come to life.

BEHIND THE MUSIC

Find out the backstory of Campbell Brown's new six-piece band and their debut album *Stay* (Music Review, page 52), which was produced with Shovels & Rope's Michael Trent. Then, go online to watch a music video for the title song.

OWLET MANIA!

Read our Channel Marker story on how the Center for Birds of Prey raises baby owls (page 54). And watch a video of the adorable birds.

ART IMITATES LIFE

Learn about the prolific career of Charleston Stage founding director, playwright, and arts education advocate Julian Wiles (The Charleston Profile, page 98). Then watch his campy original *JFK and Inga Binga,* about the young Kennedy's real-life fling with an alleged Nazi spy right here in Charleston.

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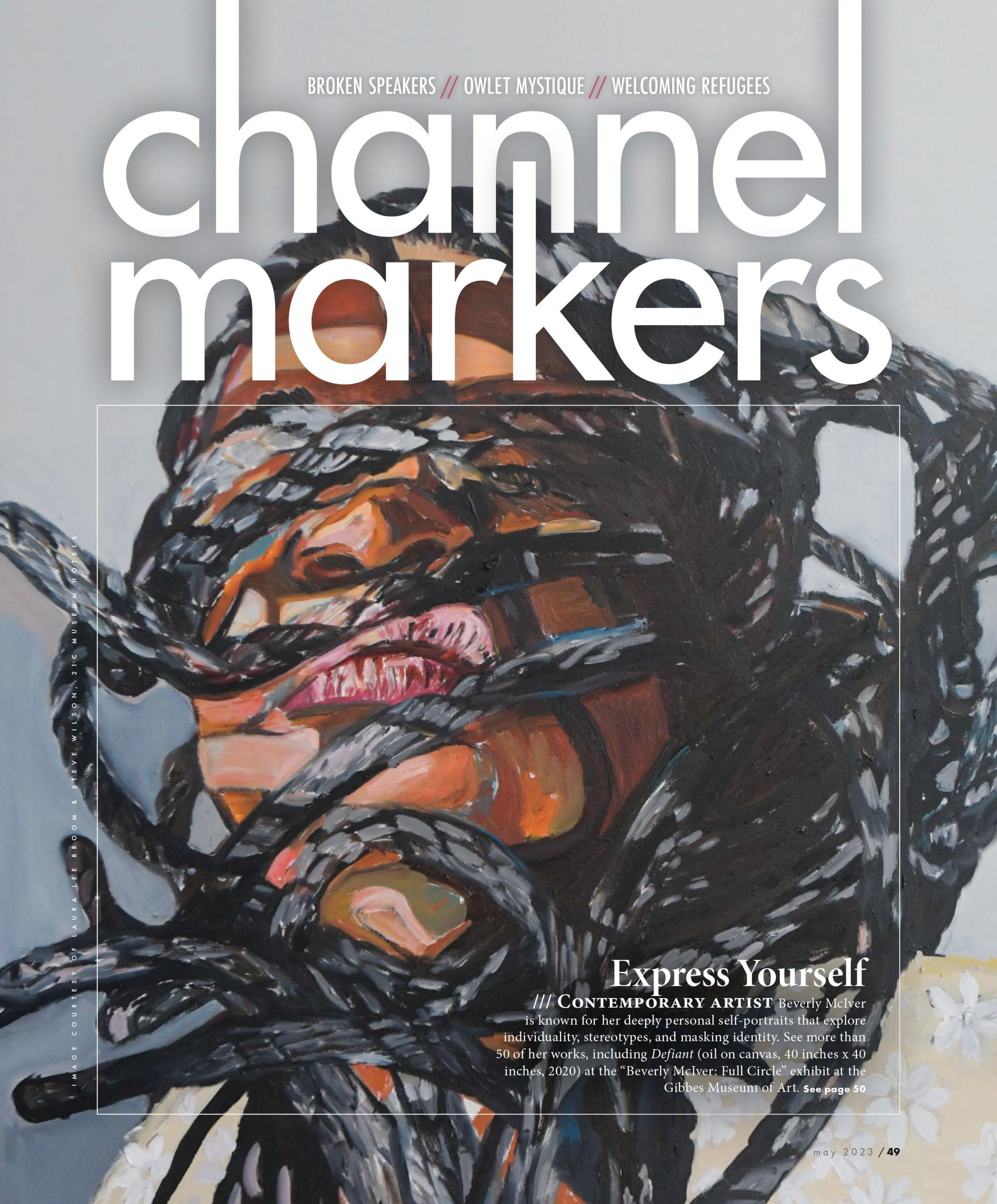
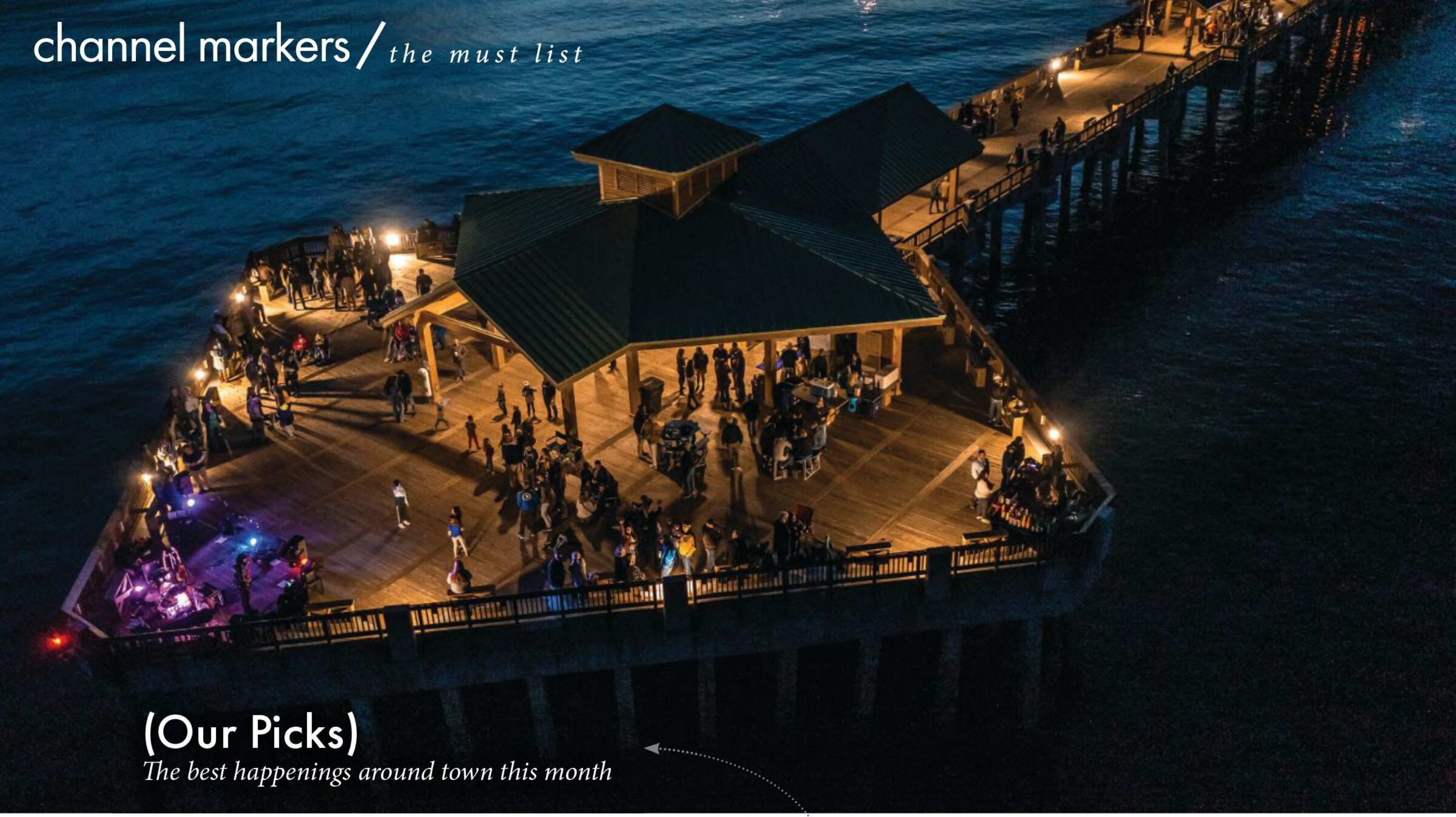


Express Yourself

/// **Contemporary artist** Beverly McIver is known for her deeply personal self-portraits that explore individuality, stereotypes, and masking identity. See more than 50 of her works, including *Defiant* (oil on canvas, 40 inches x 40 inches, 2020) at the "Beverly McIver: Full Circle" exhibit at the Gibbes Museum of Art. **See page 50**

IMAGE COURTESY OF LAURA LEE BROOM & STEVE WILSON, 21C MUSEUM HOTELS



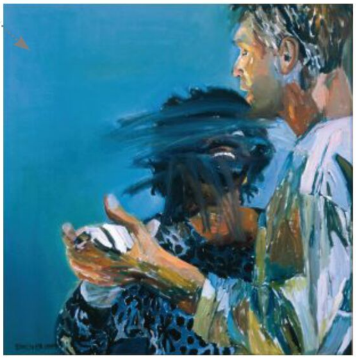
(Our Picks)

The best happenings around town this month

THROUGH AUGUST 6

"Beverly McIver: Full Circle"

From a self-portrait of Beverly McIver wearing clown makeup to another of her tossing her hair in defiance, this exhibit reveals the North Carolina artist's personal journey and career evolution over the past 25 years. The survey features more than 50 of the contemporary artist's pieces, including bold paintings and mixed-media works, which examine ways of masking identity, stereotypes, and expressing individuality. Also included are works McIver created while in Italy for the American Academy's Rome Prize, as well as more recent pieces that explore color, pattern, and the human figure. ***Gibbes Museum of Art, 135 Meeting St. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. $12-$6. (843) 722-2706, gibbesmuseum.org***



MAY 5

Moonlight Mixers

Dance the night away under the stars with the return of the popular Moonlight Mixers to the newly reconstructed Folly Beach Pier, which recently reopened. DJ John Dixon will be spinning old-time favorites and beach music classics sure to get everyone twistin' and swingin' out on the dance floor. Beverages are available for purchase, while food is offered at Pier 101 Restaurant and the Gangplank Gift & Tackle Shop at the pier entrance. Mark your calendars as the dance series continues on June 16 and July 7. ***Folly Beach Pier, 101 E. Arctic Ave., Folly Beach. Friday, 7-10:30 p.m. $10-$8. (843) 762-9516, ccprc.com***

MAY 21

Chef's Potluck

Chefs from 15 notable restaurants such as FIG, The Ordinary, Lewis Barbecue, Slightly North of Broad, and Ted's Butcherblock will prepare dishes highlighting local purveyors, including Abundant Seafood, Heron Farms, Joseph Fields Farm, and Vertical Roots for this tasty fundraiser for Lowcountry Local First. The dinner also will showcase two graduates of the nonprofit's Community Business Academy: Bert & T's Desserts and Mini Blessings Bakery. The event is held during Lowcountry Local First's Eat Drink Local Month campaign, when the organization encourages residents to shift at least $10 of their weekly food budgets to local purveyors. ***The Porter Room at Holy City Brewery, 1021 Aragon Ave., North Charleston. Sunday, 4-7 p.m. $125. (843) 801-3390, lowcountrylocalfirst.org***

MAY 27

Quentin Baxter Quintet

Grammy-award winning drummer and College of Charleston alum Quentin Baxter gets the spotlight as he returns to the Cistern Yard as part of this year's Spoleto Festival USA Wells Fargo Jazz series. Baxter is joined by talented musicians, including Ranky Tanky bandmate Charlton Singleton on trumpet and special guest Gino Castillo on percussion, as they perform jazz classics, as well as Baxter's original compositions, which are influenced by church choral and Gullah traditions. ***College of Charleston Cistern Yard, 71 George St. Saturday, 9 p.m. $68-$44. (843) 805-5507, spoletousa.org***

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BROKEN
SPEAKERS
Stay

After Gaslight Street vocalist Campbell Brown shared a few tracks he'd been working on with Shovels & Rope's Michael Trent, a new band called Broken Speakers was formed.

Soul Distortion

Broken Speakers channel vintage soul with a bluesy edge on its debut album

The story of Broken Speakers—a six-piece, throwback-soul band comprised of veteran Charleston-based musicians—is an amalgam of our city's music scene. Campbell Brown, the lead singer and songwriter (also of Folly Beach's blues-rock project Gaslight Street), works days as a carpenter. When Cary Ann Hearst and Michael Trent of folk duo Shovels & Rope needed a new fence with a gate to accommodate their tour bus, Brown took the job and shared a few tracks with Trent that he'd recorded with Whitt Algar, Stratton Moore (SexBruise, Gaslight Street) and Ryan Bonner at the latter's home studio on John's Island.

Stay, the resulting seven-track LP produced by Trent, evolved into the artists forming a new band. Brown had fragments of several songs he'd assumed would be for Gaslight Street, but after Trent added a distorted, thumping bassline and soulful layers of backing vocals to the chorus and bridge of the title track, the music demanded its own entity. "We realized this is a different sound. It's a different band," says Brown.

Bonner, lead guitarist and the album's coproducer, brought in Drew Lewis on drums. Gaslight Street's Algar joined on keyboard and Corey Stephens (of Josh Roberts and The Hinges) plays bass, with Kaitlin Casteel (Sunflowers & Sin) rounding out the vocals.

During the pandemic, several band members had tours with their other groups canceled. The pause allowed for a slower, back-and-forth process of tweaks with Trent. "We took our time with it, which I'd never done before," says Brown. Through collective input, each song morphed to represent the new band's signature sound.

> ***The backing-vocal-group sound and bass lines lend the collection a feeling between the neo-soul of Meyer Hawthorne and the jangly melodies of The Band.***

He describes the semi-autobiographical "Four Corners" as "a tale set in the '30s about a traveling blues musician jumping on a train, playing gigs, and selling his soul… all that." He plays a haunting slide guitar on the track, and Trent provides a rolling harmonica that perfectly segues from the chorus to verse. "That one really took a turn with Michael," says Brown. "He stripped it down to just a kick and the vocal and a bit of organ at the beginning, and then the harmonica has that hook."

"Every Day Will Be Like a Holiday," the album's second single, features Trent's layered call-and-response on the chorus. The backing-vocal-group sound and bass lines lend the collection a feeling between the neo-soul of Meyer Hawthorne and the jangly melodies of The Band, dosed with hints of muffled '70s blues overdrive. Dave McNair, the mastering engineer for Shovels & Rope and a studio veteran with Bob Dylan, Mavis Staples, and Willie Nelson credits, provided the album its final polish.

Onstage, Broken Speakers' full sound allows Brown to put his guitar aside and focus on being a true lead singer, working a vintage mic while the musicians build to a peak behind him. "It's a different role being a front man, but I've embraced it," he says. "We arrange each song together as a band and that helps us stay true to the sound."

Stay will be released on May 27 with a performance at The Royal American.

—***Stratton Lawrence***

Web EXTRAS **Hear More:** Watch a music video for the title song from Broken Speakers' debut album *Stay*.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (2) ASHLEY WHITACRE

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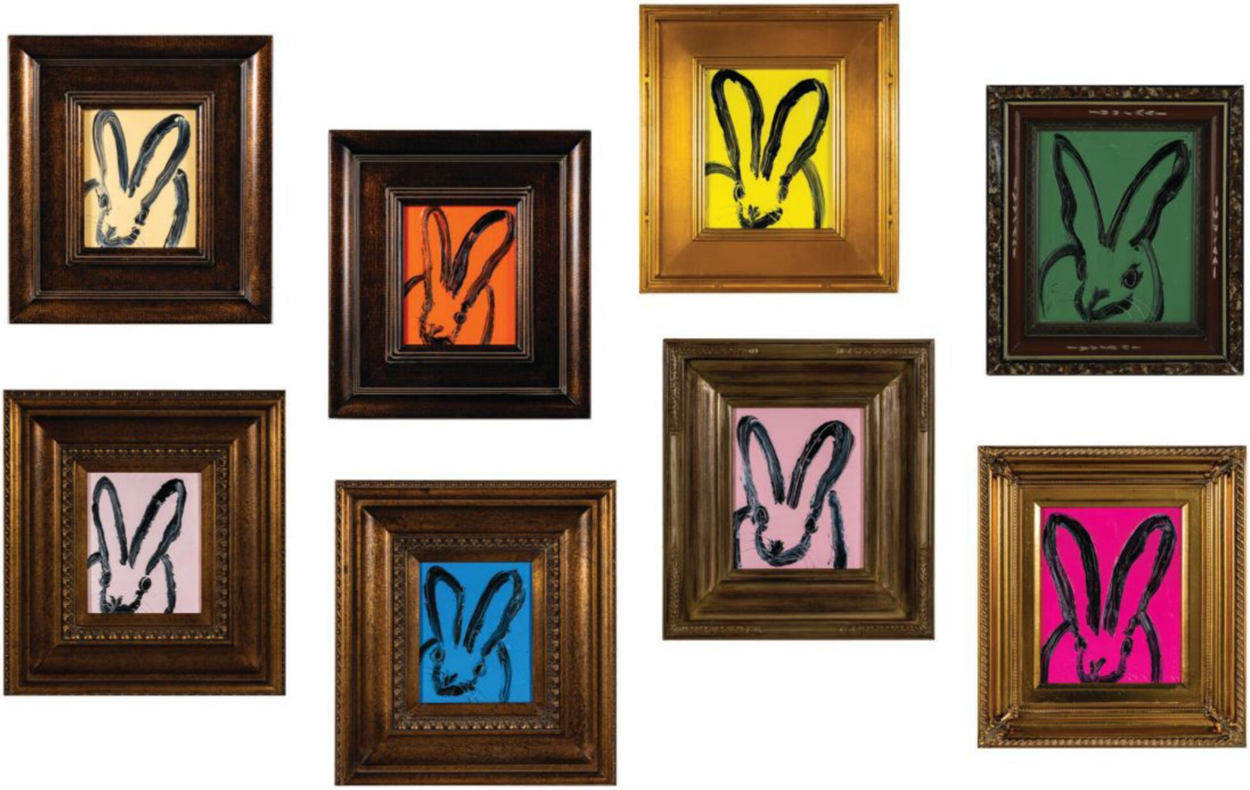

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ON DISPLAY THROUGH JUNE 3, 2023

Hunt Slonem, *Francois,* 2022. Oil on wood. © Hunt Slonem.
Hunt Slonem, *David,* 2022. Oil on wood. © Hunt Slonem.
Hunt Slonem, *Lazy Day,* 2022. Oil on wood. © Hunt Slonem.
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Owl Mania

Come springtime, owlets steal the show at the Birds of Prey Avian Conservation Center —Margaret Loftus

With four square meals a day, incubators to keep them warm, and no prey around, owlets in the center's breeding program, like this spectacled hatchling, have a much greater chance of survival than in the wild.

This spring, the center welcomed two spectacled owls (above) and two Asian brown wood owls with faces only a mother could love.

Stephen Schabel was wrapping up his presentation on vultures at a packed amphitheater at the Center for Birds of Prey on a recent morning when, as if on cue, the audience seemed to emit a collective "whoa!" Forget the vulture, the next raptor in the demo lineup, a regal brown and white Ural owl, had arrived.

If vultures are the Rodney Dangerfield of raptors, owls are Rihanna. "People want to see owls; they love owls," says Schabel, who just marked his 20th year as the center's director. "A lot of that relates to the fact that they are so mysterious. They have a mystique." And this particular gal didn't disappoint her audience, showing off with a low fly-by across the crowd and posing majestically on a perch while visitors strained for good camera angles like paparazzi.

The Ural is one of 40 owls out of the 115 birds of prey that are part of the center's education program—others include eagles, hawks, falcons, kites, and vultures—which promotes wonderment, as well as public awareness about the threats to raptors, such as car collisions and poison. In addition to the center's Avian Medical Clinic, which treats some 1,000 birds each year (the most common species of which is the barred owl), the nonprofit has another mission: to breed certain birds in captivity, whether for education or propagation of the species. And that means, each spring brings an average of six owls into the center's family.

Clear across the campus from the flight demo amphitheater at the clinic, the latest couple of owlets—with their cartoonish velociraptor heads, not quite camera-ready—squeak and hobble, craning their necks to reach bits of lunch prepared by husbandry and propagation manager Audrey Ray. At two weeks old, these Asian brown wood owls, cousins of our native barred owl, have a voracious appetite, putting away six pinky mice each a day. Ray feeds them via a tweezer four times daily—she even totes them home in their incubator to give them a snack before bedtime—until they're about four weeks old, when they can eat on their own.

"People want to see owls; they love owls. A lot of that relates to the fact they they are so mysterious. They have a mystique." —Stephen Schabel, Center for Birds of Prey

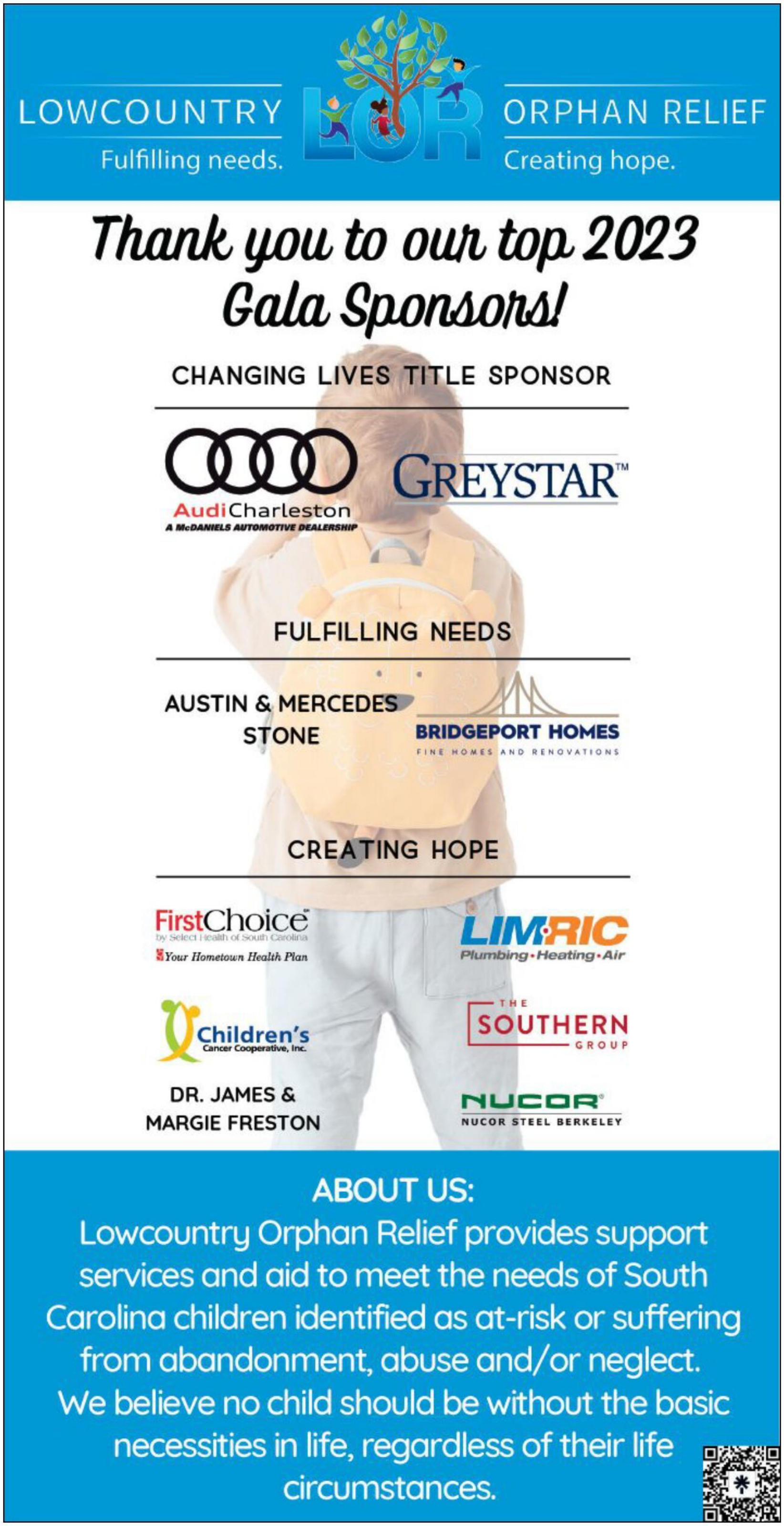
Hand-feeding is an important step in raising education birds in particular. "With owls, we want them to imprint on humans if we want to train them [for demos]," Schabel says. "Most will be what we call dual imprints given that they're raised not in isolation with humans but around other owls."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CAROLINE MCCARRON

While one out of two owl chicks don't survive in the wild, the odds in captivity are much higher. "We're talking about 30 grams of helpless animal, very few feathers; they can't keep themselves warm, we have to slowly introduce food," Schabel says. But after six weeks of gorging on pinky mice, they'll reach their full body weight.

These hatchlings are destined for the center's breeding program, which is only one of two in the US that houses Asian brown wood owls. The other is a facility in Delaware, with whom they partner with in the breeding and importation of the species. (Most of the breeding here focuses on non-native owls, since native populations are generally healthy.) While none of the owls being bred there are currently threatened, the goal is to build a sustainable stock in case something goes wrong with them in the wild. As examples, Schabel points to peregrine falcons and condors, species that wouldn't exist if it weren't for captive propagation. "While they might not be endangered today, we want to be prepared," he says.

Husbandry and propagation manager Audrey Ray cares for the hatchlings, including taking them home with her at night. After a steady diet of pinky mice, the owls will reach their full weight at six weeks.



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Show Time

Ear for Music attracts top regional and national acts that keep the local live music scene hoppin' —STANFIELD GRAY

LIVE OAK STAGE

Ear for Music helped launch the Riverfront Revival festival, curated by Darius Rucker, in October 2022. This year's lineup includes Rucker, Band of Horses, and more on October 7 and 8.

Rob Lamble booked his first show at Myskyns Tavern in 1994. His wife, Erika, manages private events.

"I was driving back to Charleston from Florida in late 1993 thinking of business names, and it hit me like a lightbulb—Ear for Music. I floated it by a couple of friends and ran with it," says Rob Lamble, a locally based concert, event production, and talent-buying impresario. He had recently graduated from college and returned home to help his father run his Tunes Discs & Tapes record stores. Thirty years on and that light is brighter than ever with Ear for Music (EFM), which is bringing a flood of top-shelf shows to the Lowcountry, including Ryan Adams & the Cardinals (May 26), My Morning Jacket (June 16), Fleet Foxes (June 24), Lettuce and Steel Pulse (July 3), with dozens more to be announced. "The growth of Charleston gives us the ability to bring more shows with greater frequency, and people are buying more tickets," says Lamble.

"[Live music] has made an amazing comeback and seems to be firing on all cylinders in every space we work in. Show announcements are happening at a feverish rate, and festivals new and old are being resurrected and selling well," he says, adding, "the theaters, amphitheaters, performing arts centers, and local music venues have strong programming, which are all great signs of a healthy industry on the mend. I would say the state of the music [business] post-pandemic is a best-case scenario."

Collaborations with local venues have complemented EFM's bread-and-butter bookings, which include concerts, corporate events, and weddings. This year, they are planning schedules for Firefly Distillery, The Refinery, Party at the Point, and assisting The Riviera Theater with its new endeavors. They also are bringing back the Riverfront Revival festival with Darius Rucker at North Charleston Riverfront Park this October.

Calling his team a four-person army, Lamble divides up the duties among his

BY THE NUMBERS

■ **More than 200:** The number of shows Ear for Music put on last year

■ **About 60:** How many local artists they represent, nonexclusively

■ **11:** The number of venues they book

■ **Dream band:** Paul McCartney, Pink Floyd, or Stevie Wonder

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (RIVERFRONT REVIVAL) BAIN STEWART MEDIA, (ROB & ERIKA) RŪTA ELVIKYTĖ, & (KHRUANGBIN) ELLISON WHITE

wife, Erika, and two new employees. He handles the public-facing side, including concert and festival promotion, clubs, and events. Erika manages the private sector, booking weddings, corporate events, and parties, as well as artist Seth G, while balancing the books, website, and their personal lives. “I couldn’t do this without her!” Lamble exclaims emphatically.

Committed to giving back to the Lowcountry, EFM partners with a variety of organizations to support causes such as MUSC Children’s Hospital, Camp Happy Days, and Carolina Studios.

While EFM offers a wide range of services, live concert promotion has been at the root of the company since the beginning. When asked what the future bodes, Lamble says, “We will always continue to promote local acts, events, concerts, and production-manage larger charity-based events and festivals that benefit the greater good of our music community.”

It helps that Charleston has an abundance of talent to showcase. “We have a wonderful musical landscape for local bands in our city,” Lamble says. “It’s super healthy with a lot of great musicians like Broken Speakers, Human Resources, Doom Flamingo, the Psychodelics, and many more.”

No doubt Lowcountry concertgoers are all ears for whatever Lamble and company announce next.

Ear for Music curates the Live at Firefly concert series, which brought trippy trio Khruangbin to the North Charleston distillery in May 2022.

Web EXTRAS **See for Yourself:** Watch a video highlighting Khruangbin’s performance for Live at Firefly.

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LaFaye Benton, the entertainment director for the Black Food Truck Festival, hosted the festival's Battle of the Bands event at the Music Farm in January.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATRINA CRAWFORD PHOTOGRAPHY

Power Vocals

Energetic performer LaFaye Benton aims to make the world dance

Music has always been in LaFaye Benton's blood. The 32-year-old grew up singing, whether performing in her dad's church, Revolutionary Ministries International in Atlanta, or with her high school choir. Upon graduation, Benton joined the Army, working as a mechanic until an officer discovered she was a talented entertainer. Reclassified as a vocalist, she spent three years touring the world with Army rock band Audie Murphy Mixtape, which played for service members and their families, as well as at many memorial services.

While Benton was stationed in Savannah, Georgia, she'd drive up the coast to Charleston on days off to check out live music at The Commodore and Pour House. After completing her service in the Army, she moved to the Holy City two years later in 2020. Today, she and her band, LaFaye and the Fellas, are a popular act at music venues and community events, including headlining next month's Juneteenth festival at Riverfront Park. The six-piece band puts on a high-energy show, playing crowd-pleasing tunes from rock and roll and R&B to soul and funk, often getting the audience involved. Here, she shares how she uses music to uplift spirits.

The Voice: In the Army, I sang at more memorials than anything, and I learned that sometimes you have to be the uplifting spirit. I always have that in mind; I always try to think about what someone might be going through that you don't know about. Once, I was performing at a cocktail club, and a lady came up and hugged me. She said she had been contemplating suicide, but I saved her life. I hold on to that.

Recognizing her Talent: Before I started LaFaye and the Fellas, I sang with several other bands. I loved it, but I always felt like if I start my own band, I can really have something special. Working with other bands, you see the behind the scenes, the business aspect of it, how people are handling their money, how they're communicating, and how they're talking to their clients. The business side of LaFaye and the Fellas is a priority. The fellas in the band, when it comes to loyalty, we're all really close, because I look out for them beyond the stage. It's not every man for themself. Starting my own band, I want to make sure that the back end is good and what people see is good. If both of those are in one accord, then there is no way that we can fail.

Motivating Factor: Before shows, I watch videos of artists, singers, and performers who inspire me. I watch James Brown, Prince, Tina Turner, and Whitney Houston in the early stages of their careers. That's my motivation. I watch how the audiences are in all of their shows. They went crazy. I want my people to feel like that. I want them to go crazy, not necessarily over me, but over the fact that when they see this band, they're about to have a damn good time. Oh, yeah!

Biggest Challenge: For years, I sang incorrectly, which is singing from my throat and not from my diaphragm, which is what I believe did damage to my vocal cords. So now I've very conscious of singing correctly. I'm having to do vocal therapy to get used to a polyp there. I'm learning that it may be there for the rest of my life, if I don't go through with surgery. I'm learning to adjust to it being a thing and knowing that it's possible to be able to perform and to sing with it.

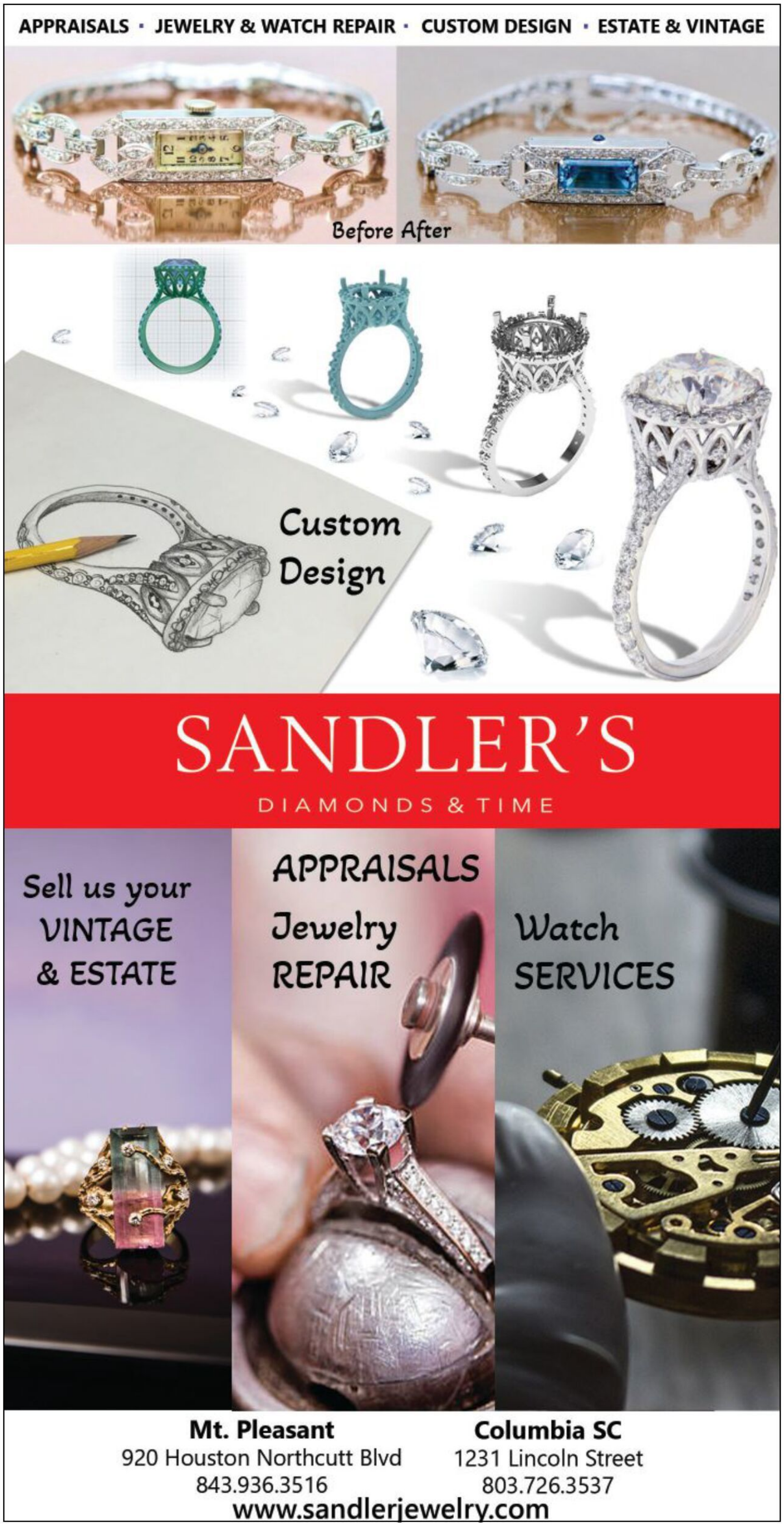
Side Gig: Last year, I took a job as a substitute teacher just to have a job, but it quickly became a passion. I absolutely love it. Kids are pretty tough on substitutes, but they know not to play with Miss Faye. They confide in me, and they're respectful. A lot of kids don't have behavioral intervention support, and I live to be able to provide support in that form. Some don't have any support; they don't have adults to talk to. Some are just alone. I try to be a light for them.

Giving Back: Auntie's House is an organization I created [in 2022], that started out as an acoustic show but grew to become a production organization to empower and uplift youth in our community through music and the arts. We also want to provide artists a platform to put on a show, showcase their talents, and propel their artistry. A lot of kids depend on their teachers and don't have structure when school's out. Summer is coming up, and when school is out, it's out. Nobody's reading, nobody's doing anything with them. Our main goal is to figure out how we can keep them involved.

Don't You Wanna Dance? My goal has been the same since I started: I want to make a difference and make the world dance. I want people to know when they see LaFaye and the Fellas, they will have an amazing time.

—***Robin Howard***

Web EXTRAS **Simply the Best** Watch LaFaye and the Fellas sing Tina Turner's "Nutbush City Limits" at the Wine + Food festival in March.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The Long Welcome

Lutheran Services Carolinas assists the more than 170 refugees from Afghanistan who have found a new home in the Lowcountry —JEFF WILKINSON

Asif Sediqi and his family arrived in Charleston last October after he worked in the American Embassy in Afghanistan for six years. Lutheran Services helped Sediqi get a job at a furniture store and find a new home for his family.

In August 2021, the United States evacuated its embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, ending the longest war in American history. For Asif Sediqi, an Afghan security guard at the embassy for six years, the closure was a nightmare. The extremist Islamic group the Taliban, which sheltered terrorists from al-Qaeda to ISIS after 9/11, was set to recapture the country. Anyone who worked for the Americans was a target. "It was devastating," Sediqi says through an interpreter. "Once the US troops left, it was a free-for-all. They [the Taliban] were looking for us. There was nowhere to go."

Last October, after more than a year in hiding, Sediqi, his wife, and five children arrived in Charleston on a special visa. They are among the estimated 88,500 Afghans who have resettled in the US since President Joe Biden ended American military involvement in Afghanistan.

About 170 of those Afghan refugees now call Charleston home and another 150 are expected this year, according to estimates from the Lutheran Services Carolinas center in North Charleston, which opened in 2022. Their mission is to provide a safe landing for refugees, many of whom risked their lives and their families' safety working with US and allied troops as guards, interpreters, or contractors. "I have clients who worked for the US military for 20 years," says Seth Hershberger of Lutheran Services. "We owed them some sort of protection because they were there for us."

In the Carolinas, Lutheran Services' New Americans program helps newcomers from Afghanistan and other global hot spots with essentials such as housing, food, clothing, employment, and health care. "Many of the refugees can't speak English and have large families," says Zainab Amani, a caseworker whose family fled the Russian invasion of Afghanistan in 1983. "We help them with everything you can think of—bank accounts, job interviews. Some have never been to the dentist. Taxes? They don't have taxes over there. It's darn hard to start over in a new culture, a new language, a new environment. It's a whole new life they have to learn."

Lutheran Services has operated centers in Columbia and Raleigh, North Carolina, since the 1990s. But to absorb some of the influx of people from Afghanistan and, increasingly, Ukraine, the nonprofit opened offices in Charleston, Greenville, and Asheville last year. Others have opened recently or will soon. "In just a year and a half, we're going from two sites to seven," says Bekah Kinsella, Charleston's resettlement director.

In addition to those fleeing Afghanistan, the Charleston office is assisting 40 refugees from Ukraine and 80 more are projected to arrive in the coming months. They bring a unique but similar set of challenges to their new home. "They are exhausted from the war," says Irina Potapov, a case manager who immigrated to the US from Ukraine in 1996.

PHOTOGRAPHS (2) BY KATE THORNTON

"A lot of them came without their husbands. Many don't speak the language and have other cultural and economic challenges. That's where our organization comes in."

Sediqi, 42, works for a furniture store, where he says he makes about $2,500 a month and pays $2,000 a month for rent in West Ashley. That income is augmented with $650 a month from the federal government, in addition to housing assistance and food stamps. Those benefits vary according to a family's size and needs. In Sediqi's case, they last eight months and will end this summer. "Although I appreciate all the help, I wish there was more of a long-term plan," he says. "It's a very scary thing to provide for a family of seven in a new country."

Kinsella said the organization is working to help the recent arrivals get a toehold in their new city and then help them stand on their own. "The goal is what we call the 'long welcome,'" she says. "Everything we do is to help them achieve self sufficiency."

Despite the challenges, Sediqi said he is happy to be in the US—and Charleston in particular. He checked out the city online before he arrived and liked what he saw. "I knew that it was a desirable place to live. It's beautiful. It's clean. People are warm and friendly, and I can walk everywhere."

But between working and raising five children, Sediqi has little time to enjoy the city. His youngest child begins kindergarten next year, a privilege she and her sister would not be allowed under the Taliban. "Their education is what I focus on. That's what matters. That's why we came here."

HOW TO HELP

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- **Volunteers:** Help newly arrived families, including language support and housing setup
- **Transportation:** Provide rides to necessary appointments, including medical visits and public benefit offices
- **Donations:** Walmart, Home Depot, or Visa gift cards, or rental vehicles to help move clients
- **Employment:** Provide a job

"We are always growing our network of employers," Kinsella says. "Please get in touch if you have job opportunities."

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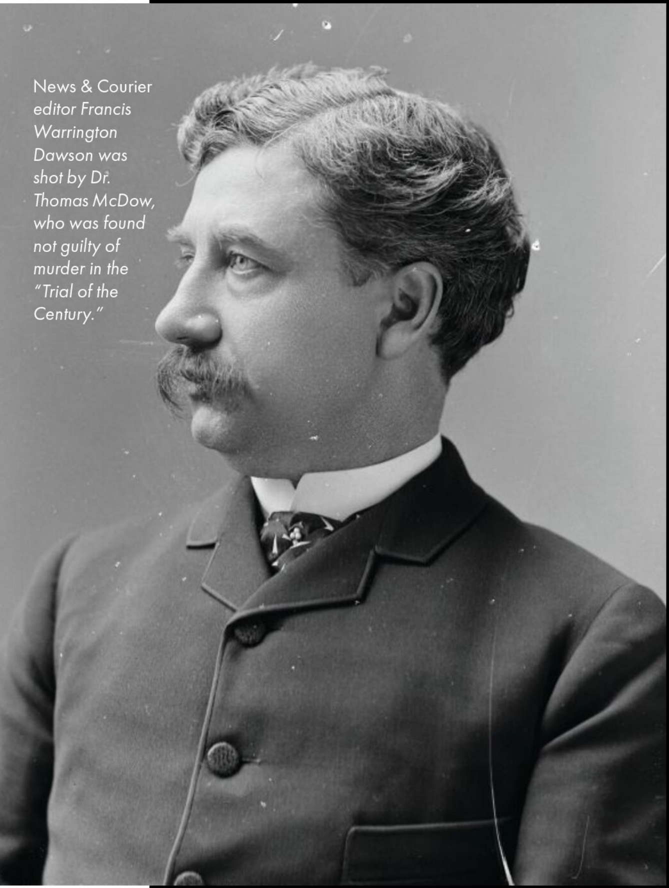
Making Headlines

When newspaper editor Francis Warrington Dawson was killed after defending his governess, the resulting trial captured the attention of the nation



News & Courier editor Francis Warrington Dawson was shot by Dr. Thomas McDow, who was found not guilty of murder in the "Trial of the Century."

The recent "Trial of the Century" that found Alex Murdaugh guilty of killing his wife and son, for all its attention-grabbing headlines, was not the first one to be so dubbed in the Lowcountry.

Back in 1889, reporters covering their century's big story laid siege to the courthouse at the corner of Broad and Meeting streets, as a transfixed populace watched the trial of Dr. Thomas McDow, accused of killing Francis Warrington Dawson, born in Britain on May 17, 1840.

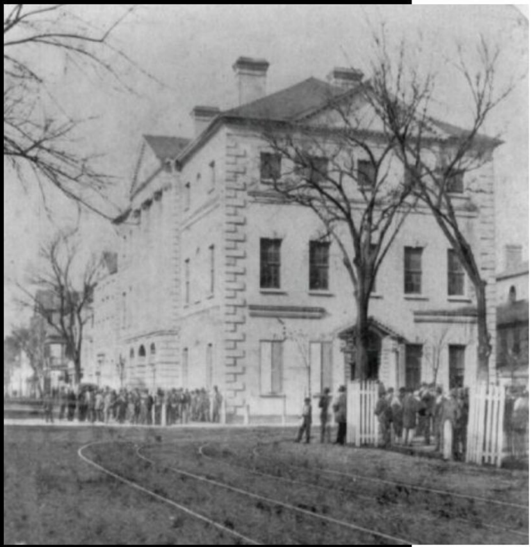
The victim, who was christened Austin John Reeks, had changed his name and nationality to fight for the Confederacy. After the war, he relocated to Charleston, married, took up residence on Bull Street, and became one of the town's leading citizens. As editor of the *News and Courier*, his political positions raised his profile nationally.

Nearby on Rutledge Avenue was the home of McDow, who was not as respected as his neighbor. The married man, who also had a mistress, spied upon and waylaid Dawson's Swiss governess, Hélène Burdayron.

Hearing of his actions, Dawson rapped on McDow's door one March afternoon and demanded his attention to Burdayron cease. McDow later testified that Dawson struck him with his cane, and then McDow shot him and tried to secrete the body. But he thought better of that and turned himself in to police. Salacious suggestions about the "French maid" as she was called despite her being Swiss were part of the trial's testimony even as would-be-seducer McDow was portrayed by the defense as a common man protecting himself from an attacker who believed he was better than others. Dawson's honor, dignity, and respectability were dispatched, as McDow, who was implicated in plots to sign false death certificates for insurance purposes and had contemplated murdering his wife, played up his need to defend himself.

The jury deliberated for a few minutes and found McDow not guilty. The next day, headlines from New York to San Francisco assailed and praised the verdict. Yet there were no real victories; McDow's life spiraled and ended in suicide, and the Dawsons left for France. The story spawned at least two novels and one biography, just as a slew of books and films on the Murdaugh trial are sure to be forthcoming. —*Harlan Greene*

PHOTOGRAPHS (2) COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



The courthouse on Broad Street where the defense questioned Dawson's character.

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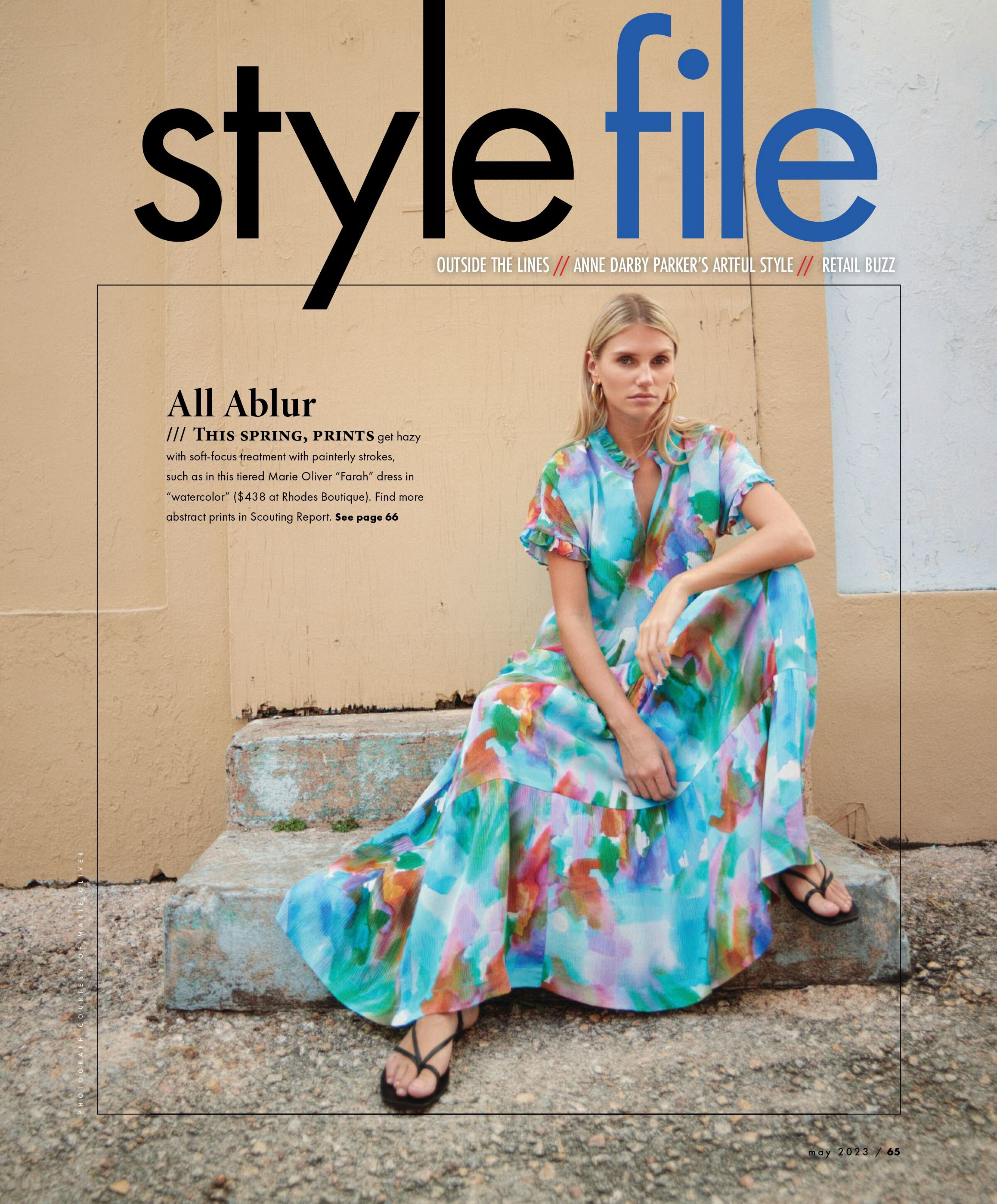
style file

OUTSIDE THE LINES // ANNE DARBY PARKER'S ARTFUL STYLE // RETAIL BUZZ



All Ablur

/// **THIS SPRING, PRINTS** get hazy with soft-focus treatment with painterly strokes, such as in this tiered Marie Oliver "Farah" dress in "watercolor" ($438 at Rhodes Boutique). Find more abstract prints in Scouting Report. **See page 66**

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MARIE OLIVER

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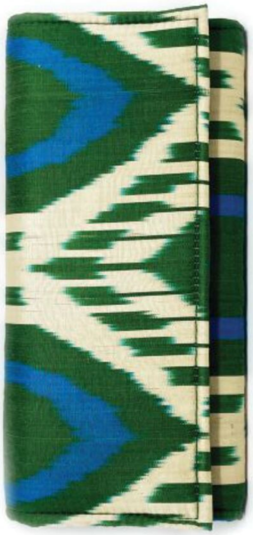

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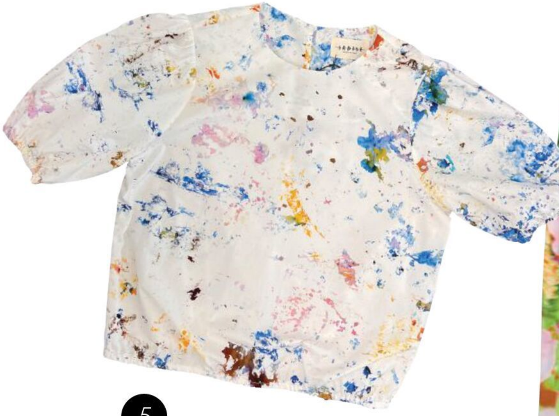

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6

PHOTOGRAPHS (6) COURTESY OF THE RETAILERS

ARTISTIC CANVAS

1. Évocateur "Bourbon Street" gold-leaf cuff, $340 at Croghan's Jewel Box **2. Ibu** fold-over ikat clutch, $75 at Ibu Movement **3. Simkhai** "Tierra" jersey top, $345, and "Gwena" skirt, $395, both in "Masala" marble print, at Hampden Clothing **4. Brandon Maxwell** "Brit" button-down, $1,295, and "Rena" trouser, $1,495, both in "kaleidoscope floral," at Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant **5. Ardise** "Jackye" blouse, $326 at Souchi **6. Stine Goya** "Stina" dress in "Faded Floral," $420 at Showroom Kiawah

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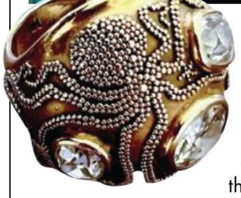
Anne Darby Parker

Always learning and growing, the semi-abstract artist recently completed her MFA from the Academy of Art University and is "percolating" ideas for her next project. The mother of three, whose first career was as a photographer, paints in her Sullivan's Island studio with her granddaughter, Olivia, in tow. Parker also enjoys watching the two-year-old explore the Children's Museum of the Lowcountry, which she founded in 2003. You can find her work locally at Meyer Vogl Gallery and Charleston Artists Collective. Here, the artist shares how she layers her spring wardrobe



Q Do you have a signature accessory?

A I cherish my ring (we refer to it as the octopus ring) designed by John Paul Miller. My husband gave it to me on my 40th birthday. It was gifted to him by his aunt and uncle, Bill and Leza McVey, both world-renowned artists from Cleveland, Ohio. For me, jewelry brings the finishing touches to an outfit.

Dr.Hauschka
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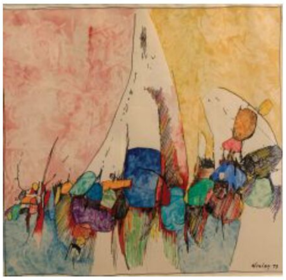
Cleansing Balm

Q What skin care products can't you live without?

A I love any product by Dr. Hauschka (left). Other than that, usually whatever my daughter buys! She's the product expert, and I'm lucky to have her living so close.



Q Do you have a favorite piece of art in your home?

A I have a treasured painting by my first teacher at Harvard, Albert Alcalay. My husband gave me a piece by him about 10 years ago. He was my first teacher to introduce abstract expressionism and the first person to say, "You're an artist."

Q How does your art translate to your style?

A My approach begins like a painting with a neutral, solid-colored piece, for example this Vincent James Designs linen dress. I add to my "canvas" with a layering piece that adds color, movement, depth, or a design element that feels right, such as this Ibu vest—it's intuitive. Lastly, like a painting that needs good editing, I try on jewelry until I achieve just the right texture and design.

Q How will you celebrate Mother's Day, and what will you wear?

A We usually don't have a big celebration on Mother's Day, but we have a tradition of gathering in our garden for lunch on Easter Sunday. I asked [my daughter] Amelia, a marketing and brand manager, to bring me something special to wear from Madison Matthews (right).

> "My style is wearing simple, timeless lines with pops of color and texture."

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SPORTY COLLAB

Local lifestyle blogger Grace Atwood, founder of *The Stripe*, has recently introduced a capsule collection with Philadelphia-based activewear brand Addison Bay. The collaboration features 13 pieces, including a striped "Grace" dress, a sleeveless "Sullivan" dress, and "Tradd" coordinating pants set, as well as Addison Bay's signature crew neck and leggings—all in a coastal-inspired palette of green, orange, and navy. "It started with a love of their 'Everyday Crewneck,' a sharply tailored pullover with gold zippers," shares Atwood. "From there, I fell in love with the rest of the line pretty much immediately. Our collection is perfect for the woman on the go, whether she is jumping on an airplane or running around the playground." Shoppers can find the polished essentials on the brand's website. **[addisonbay.com; thestripe.com]**

Local lifestyle blogger Grace Atwood models the "Delancey" dress from her 13-piece collection with activewear brand Addison Bay.

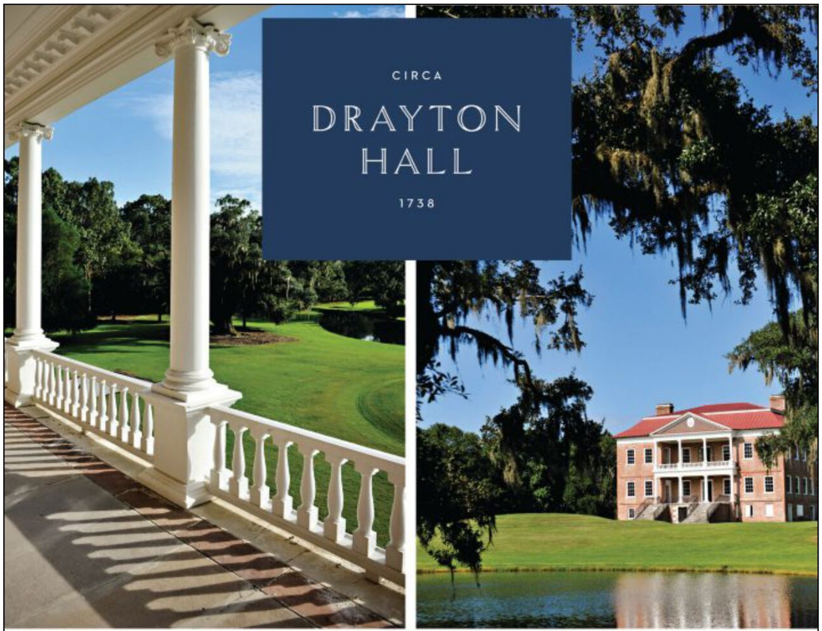
PHOTOGRAPH BY LAURA SAUR

MEET THE FOUNDERS

Skin-care enthusiasts can meet the founders behind their favorite products at clean beauty emporium Wildcraft, which is launching its new event series this month. Get personalized advice from Supadra Geronimo with Siam Seas on May 6, Josh Rosebrook with his eponymous line on May 12, and Jenna Levine of locally based Linné Botanicals on June 24. Customers can sip mocktails while shopping at the free events. Check the website for times and look for Wildcraft to host another group of makers this fall. **[38 Windermere Blvd., wildcraftcharleston.com]**

"KNOT-SCENTED"

Local soap purveyor, Old Whaling Co., which celebrated its 10th anniversary last year, has introduced a fragrance-free collection of its handmade soaps, bath bombs, and body butters cleverly named "Knot Scented." The line is designed for people with sensitive skin or those who prefer products without fragrance or color. Charleston artist Blakely Little designed the packaging, which features neutral-colored sailboats. **[43 Broad St., 409 King St., & 188 Meeting St., oldwhalingcompany.com]**



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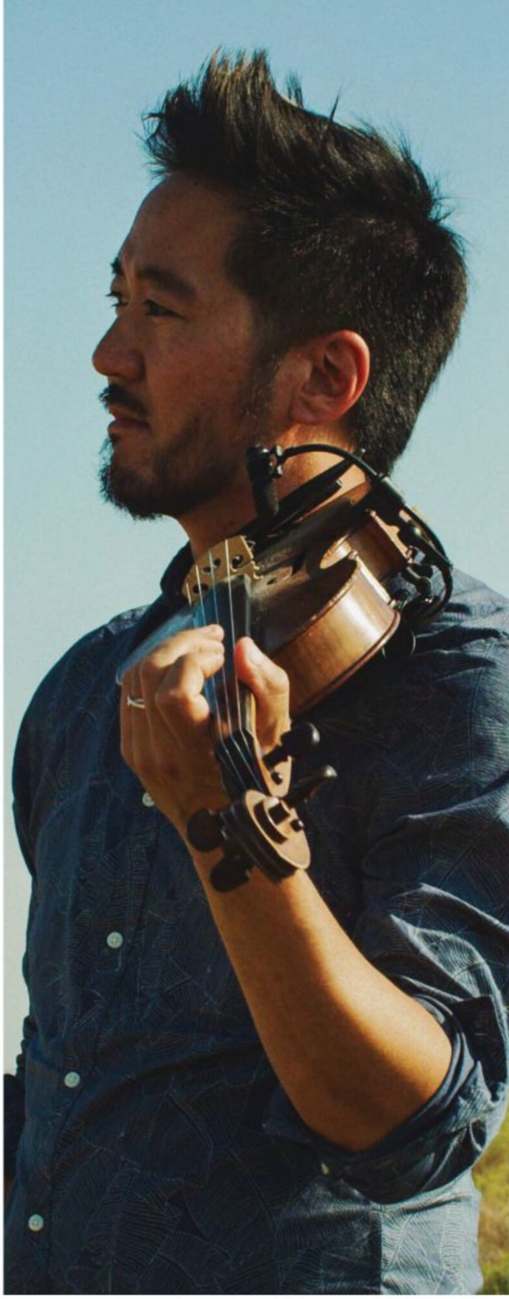

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house & garden

Time to Chill /// One couple traded their Asheville mountain getaway for full-time, seaside digs on Sullivan's Island. Check out their new house, custom made for their retirement surrounded by sun, sand, grandchildren, and lots of art.

See page 75

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATIE CHARLOTTE

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SHIRVETTA D

THE CHARLESTON HOME

Art on the Beach

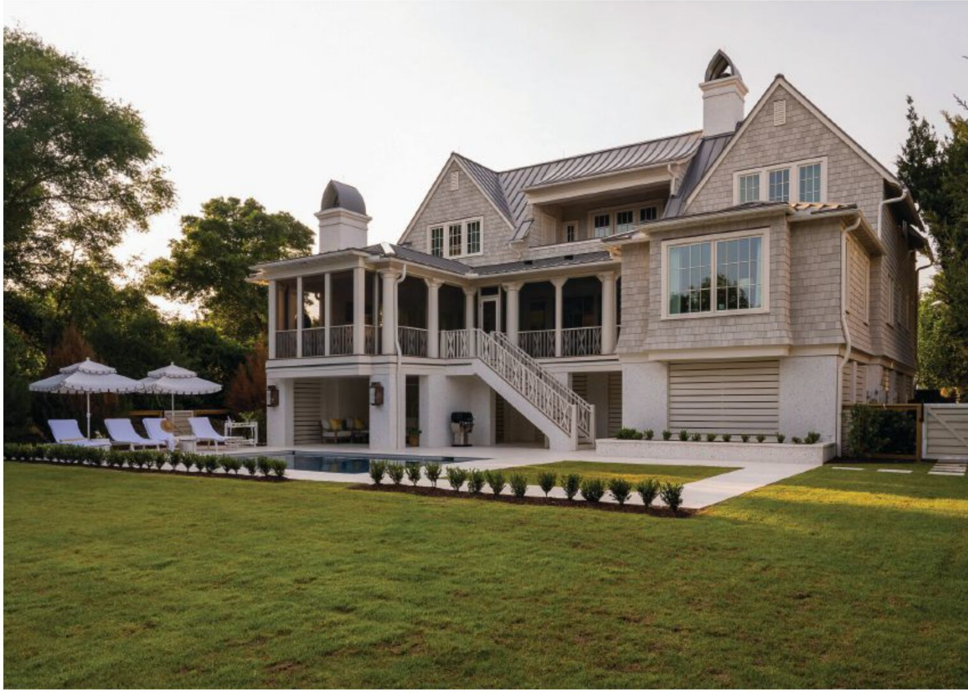
An artist is drawn back to Sullivan's Island to find space for her family and inspiration for a blossoming career

—*written by* Jennifer Pattison Tuohy /// *photographs by* Katie Charlotte

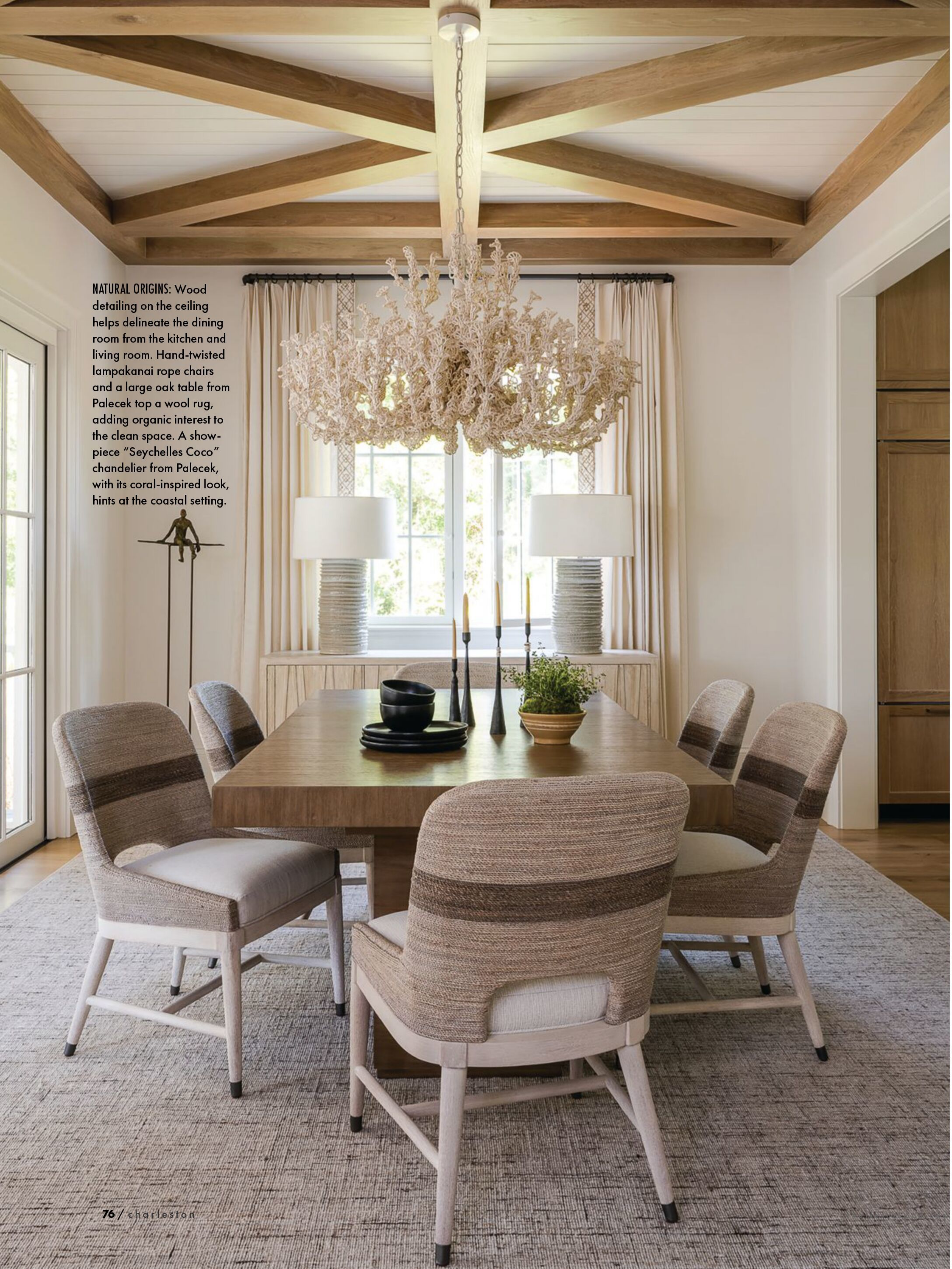
Tranquil and traditional on the outside, surprising and sophisticated on the inside—these phrases aptly describe Debby Alphin's newly built home on Sullivan's Island, as well as the owner herself. The 71-year-old grandmother exudes gracious Southern hospitality as she opens the door to her home, where the classic white walls are adorned with her own vibrant, abstract oil paintings. A late-bloomer as an artist, Debby started painting in her 50s. She and her husband, Steele, plan to spend their retirement surrounded by sun, sea, sand, grandchildren, and lots of art.

The couple isn't new to the island. The former Bank of America executive (him) and software designer-turned-artist (her) had a vacation home on Bronwell Avenue and Station 29 for almost a decade. While their main home was in Atlanta, they had swapped the beach for a mountain retreat in Asheville a few years ago. The Alphins soon realized their mistake. "Our grandkids love the water," says Debby. With Steele now retired, they are settling into their new primary residence on an idyllic lot.

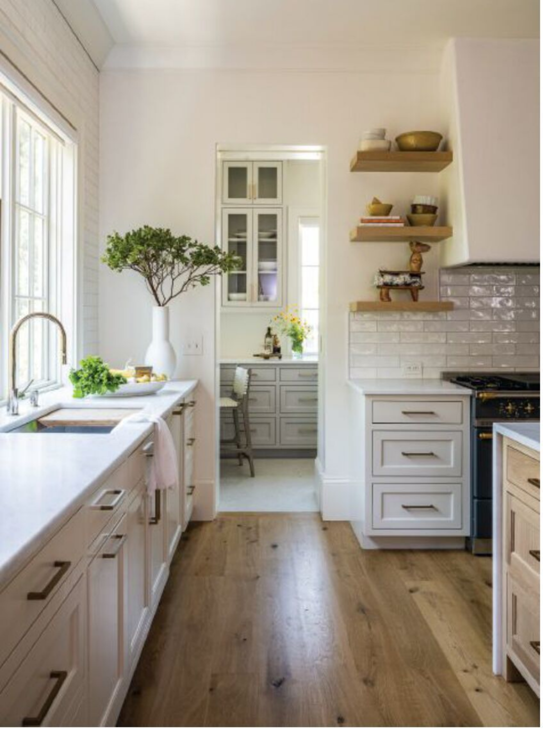
Nestled at the end of Atlantic Avenue, where it meets Station 16, their home neighbors a wide-open grassy hill leading to Fort Moultrie and a lush, wooded walkway to the beach. The maritime forest reaches right up to their pool, making for an unusual vista for a beachfront home. "It feels like a tree house, in a way," says Debby, who loves how quiet and uncrowded it is, especially compared to

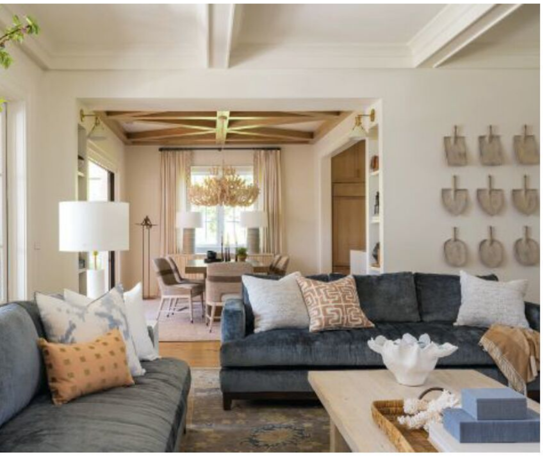


ISLAND LIFE: Debby and Steele Alphin (left) built this Atlantic Avenue beach house in 2021 as a place to spend their golden years. The main floor is a self-contained living area for the couple, while the upstairs provides plenty of room for their two daughters to visit with their families. Architect Amanda Orr managed to squeeze in an artist studio for Debby, whose paintings are sold through Atlanta Artist Collective and Serena & Lily. Ample outdoor living spaces, including a pool, large lawn, and screened porch, allow for a connection to the neighboring maritime forest and ocean beyond.



NATURAL ORIGINS: Wood detailing on the ceiling helps delineate the dining room from the kitchen and living room. Hand-twisted lampakanai rope chairs and a large oak table from Palecek top a wool rug, adding organic interest to the clean space. A showpiece "Seychelles Coco" chandelier from Palecek, with its coral-inspired look, hints at the coastal setting.





BRIGHT SIDE: The kitchen (top) features a large marble island, but Debby's favorite feature is the butler's pantry. Tucked behind the Lacanche range, the laundry/larder is flooded with light. A coffered ceiling in the living room continues the open-yet-separate feel of the downstairs. Deep blue sofas from the couple's home in Asheville provide a pop of color against the walls painted in Benjamin Moore "White Dove."

their previous digs at Station 29.

Their prime oceanfront lot came with plans, but the Alphins decided to start from scratch, working with Atlanta-based architect Amanda Orr to design the five-bedroom, 4,200-square-foot house. Their directive: a home suited for comfortable everyday living for two, but that could easily expand when their two daughters and four

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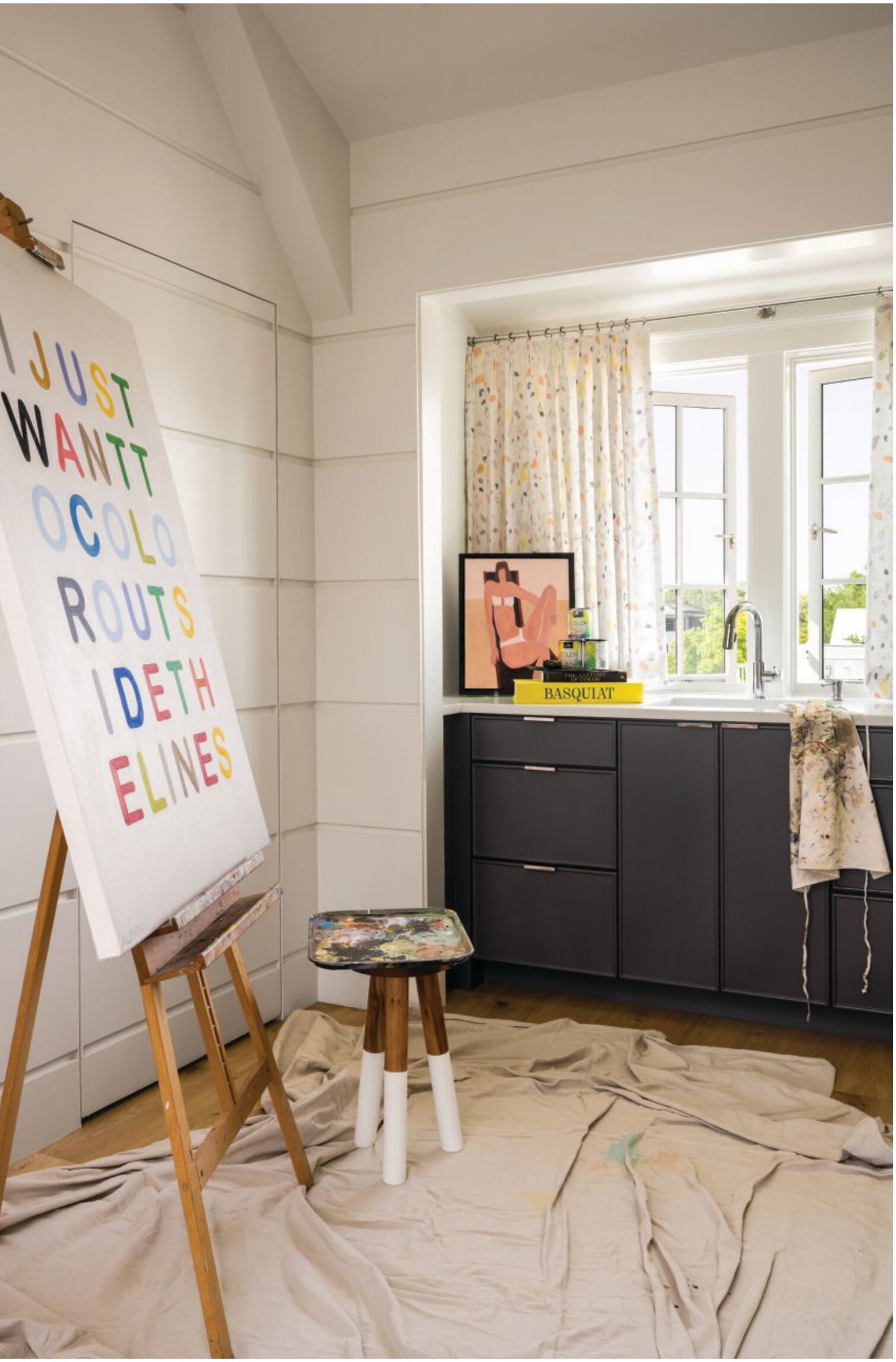

CREATIVE SPACE: With no room in the floor plan for Debby's studio, the architect cleverly transformed an open area at the top of the stairs, outfitting the window nook with cabinets and a sink. A large closet behind a jib door provides storage for canvases and a rolling cart with all her supplies.

grandchildren visit. "They wanted a private office for him, a painting studio for her, functional entertaining areas on every level, and elements that bring the outside in," says Orr. Constructed by Charleston-based 79 West Builders, the residence was completed in late 2021.

A large open-plan kitchen and dining room with sliding doors lead to a covered outdoor living room, providing plenty of space for the family to congregate. The primary suite is also on the first floor, along with Steele's office, where the jib door handle prevents little fingers from finding their way in. Upstairs are four guest rooms and a separate lounge area to ensure reruns of *Bluey* don't conflict with the golf tournament being watched by the adults downstairs.

The one thing that didn't fit into the floor plan was Debby's studio. "It was a bit too tight based on the available square footage for the lot and the other rooms we needed," the artist explains. But Orr devised

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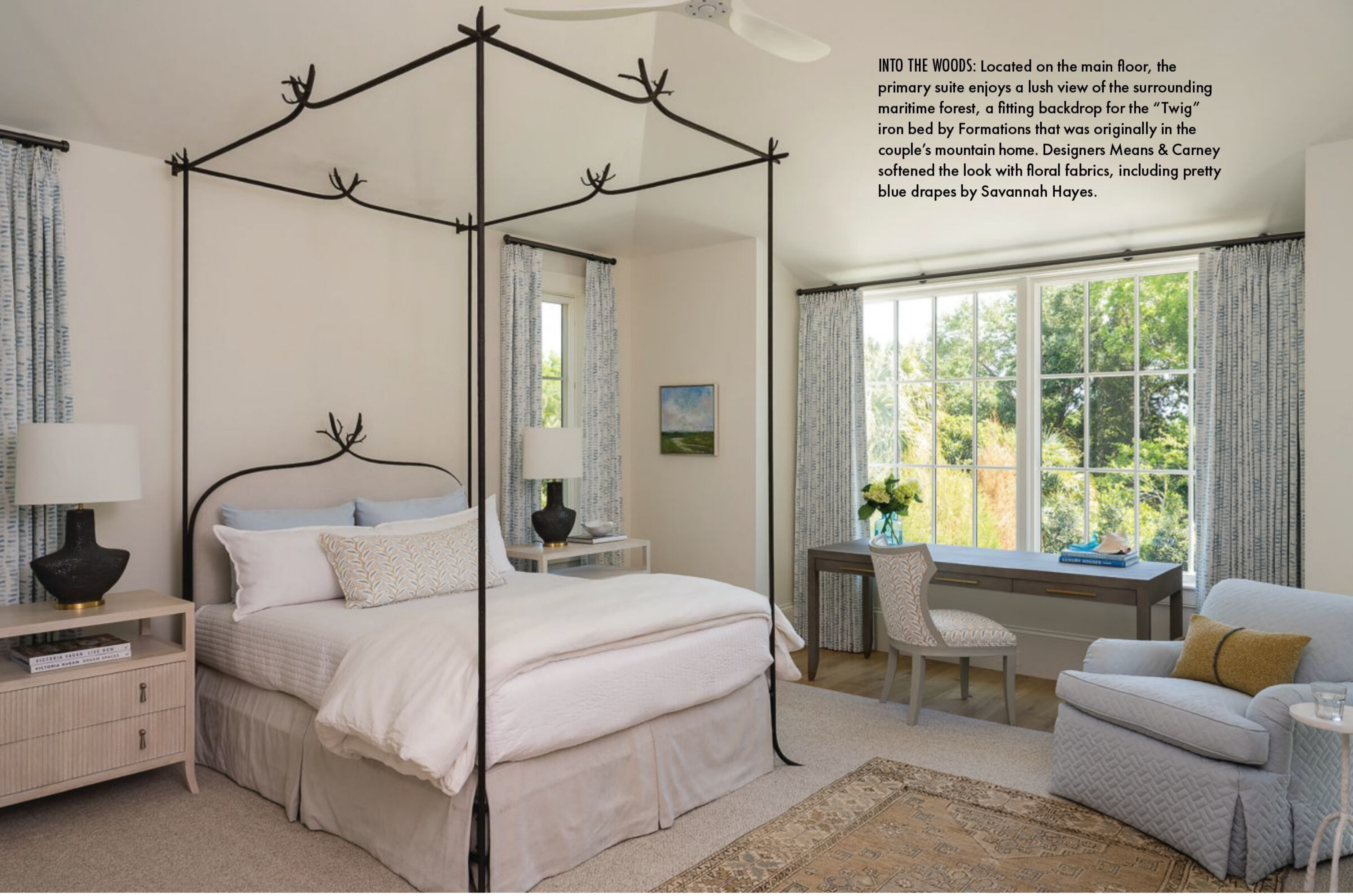


INTO THE WOODS: Located on the main floor, the primary suite enjoys a lush view of the surrounding maritime forest, a fitting backdrop for the "Twig" iron bed by Formations that was originally in the couple's mountain home. Designers Means & Carney softened the look with floral fabrics, including pretty blue drapes by Savannah Hayes.

> *"It's just the whole way of life—the smell, the casualness of it, the good times you have with people.... There's just something about the coast that I love."—Debby Alphin*

an ingenious solution, turning the upstairs landing into a movable studio. "It's worked really well," says Debby. "Amanda took a space that might not have been used and turned it into something wonderful."

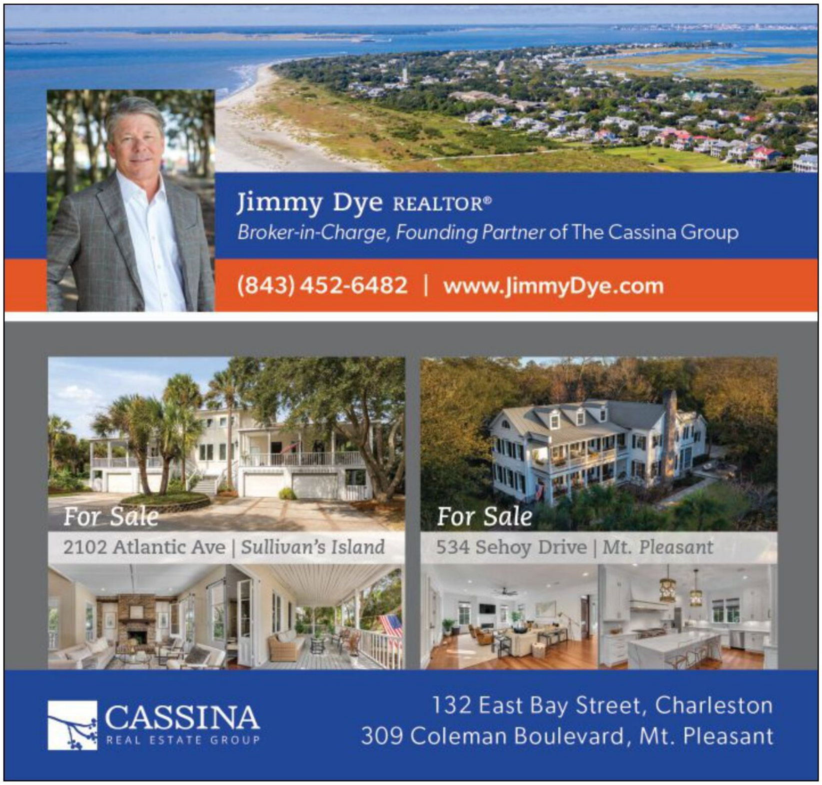
She loves the natural light streaming in from both the east and west, as well as the sink and small counter Orr placed into the window nook. A table built into the railing provides a spot for the grandkids to color and gives the artist extra work space when she's painting alone. A large closet, hidden by another jib door, offers ample storage for canvases and a rolling cart with all her supplies.

The home's overall feel is comfortable chic, with an exterior designed to fit in with the classic Sullivan's style. "We wanted it to look and feel like it could have been there for decades with the selection of time-honored materials [tabby, shake] and colors that blend in with the sand and brush that envelop the rear of the property, as well as a connection to the exterior from each room," explains Orr. But Debby also wanted a bit of a twist. So, the architect added a few imaginative details, including subtle curves to the columns and sweeping eaves.

SOAKING IT IN: The en suite provides plenty of space thanks to a long, built-in vanity painted in "Repose Gray" by Sherwin Williams. A small nook to the right houses a soaking tub, in which their grandkids love to play.

PATTERN PLAY: The upstairs guest rooms are characterized by more floral fabrics and plenty of space to relax, including matching chaise lounge chairs, each covered in Perennials fabrics. The bold "Fan Palm" wallpaper by Sanderson in the powder room complements a creamy Restoration Hardware vanity and brass wall sconces by Visual Comfort.

Inside, white oak accents, natural hues, and fresh white walls enhance the house's light and airy beach aesthetic, surprising considering most of the furniture came from the Alphins' mountain home in Asheville. Debby directed her design team, Angela Means and Danielle Carney of Means and Carney Interiors in Atlanta, to reuse and recycle. "Our challenge was determining which furnishings from the mountain house would translate to a home on the water," notes Angela. "Ultimately, we incorporated almost every piece into the new Sullivan's home." They achieved this by reupholstering bedroom



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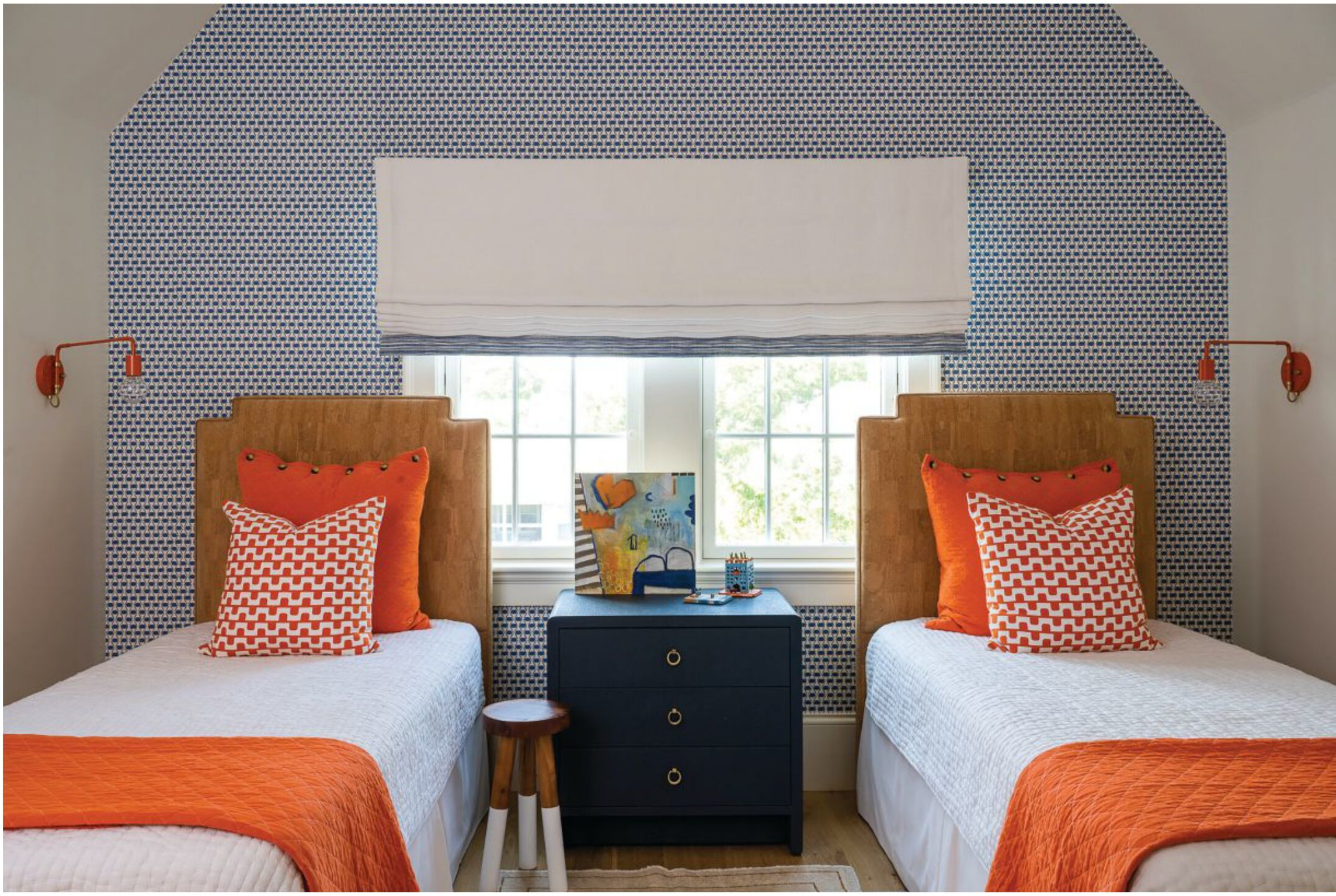
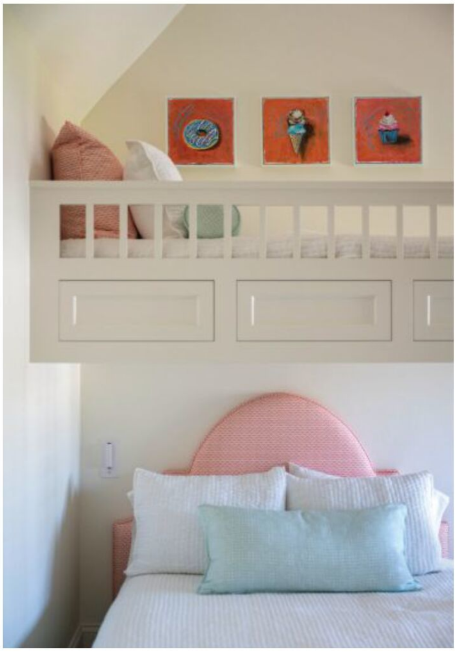
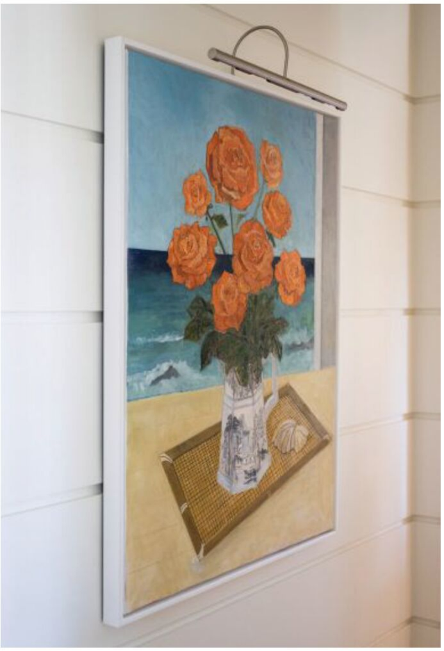


ORANGE POP: Debby infused her own love of color into her grandchildren's rooms. Thibaut's blue "Denver" wallpaper in the boys' room makes the orange Utility Canvas quilts and shams really pop. While the artist says she rarely buys art to fit a space, she will paint to fill a wall. "In the girls' room, there was this blank space above the bunk bed, so I did these three small paintings—a donut, an ice cream cone, and a cupcake—to fill it." Her *Saltwater Roses* adds color and personality to the entryway.





chairs in pale blue and playful pinks, pairing existing darker sofas in the living room with new white swivel chairs, and adding a few coastal accent pieces, such as the driftwood-style coffee table by Clubcu.

Lighting selections, which were almost all new, reinforce the desired coastal and organic vibe, from the Palecek "Coco Magnolia" pendant in the foyer to the coral-like fixture above the dining table. Another key adaptation was taking the Formations "Twig"

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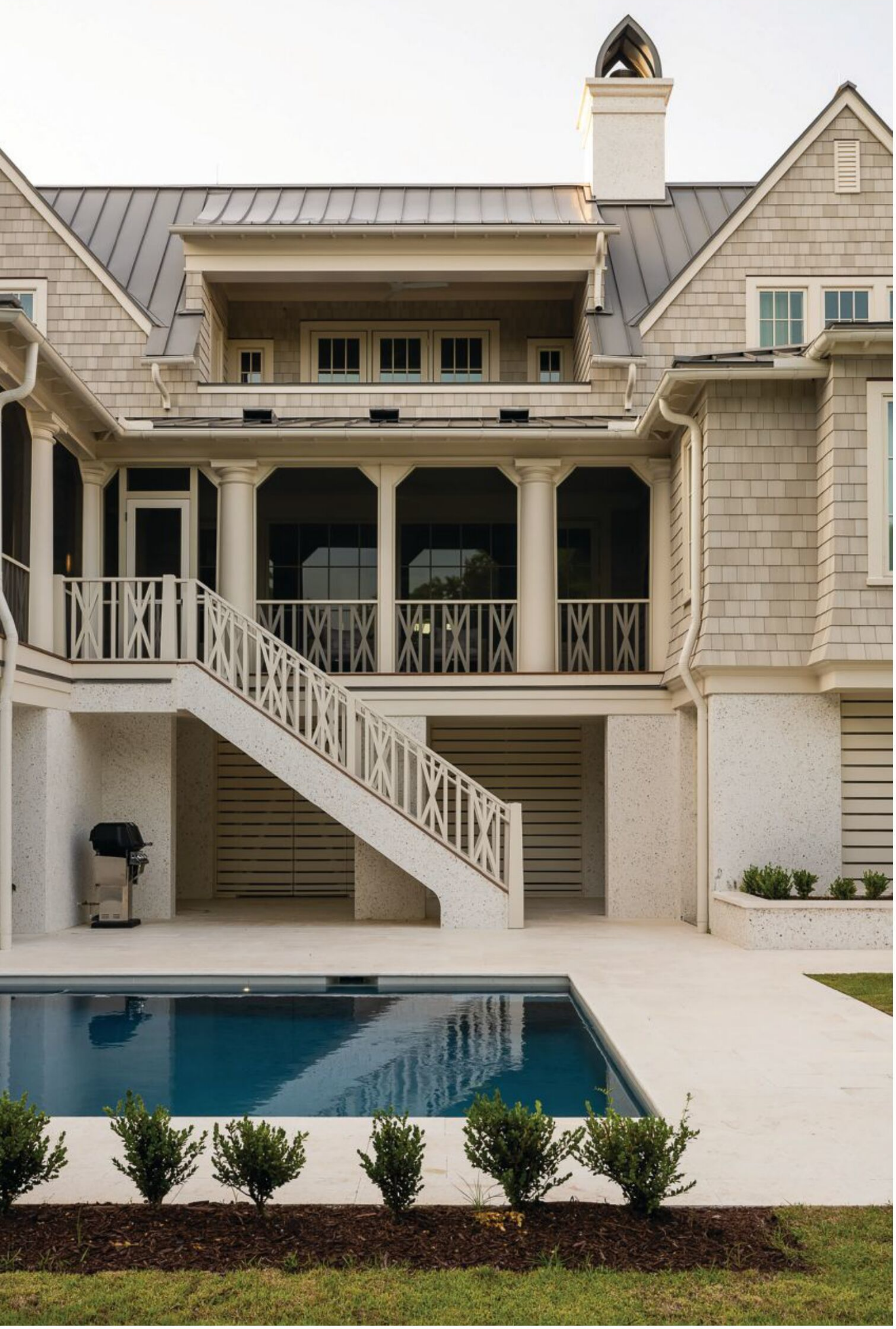

iron bed in the primary suite from a mountain look to a casual coastal style. "We did this by enveloping the room in custom draperies in the Savannah Hayes "Riga" fabric, which reminds us of pieces of sea glass found on a sandy beach," explains Angela. Another touch was reupholstering the desk chair in "Cassis" fabric by Serena Dugan, inspired by a town in southern France.

Art is a dominant theme in the home, with each room and every hallway highlighted by a unique piece—be it a favorite from Debby's collection or one of her own creations. "Debby's original paintings and personal art collection bring personality to their home," says Angela. "The Lowcountry [boil] painting in the kitchen sets the tone for big family gatherings and casual dinners around the kitchen island."

From the start, the house was designed to work with the art. "I am very sensitive to sight lines, and many of the spaces in the home we created for artwork," says Debby. There was a conscious shift away from the trendier open-plan living, and she even directed Orr to add walls where

BLENDING IN: The soft exterior palette was designed to mesh with the surrounding coastal landscape. From the light-colored NuCedar shingles and the tabby stucco to the Marvin clad windows in "Coconut Cream," the overall look is subtle and sophisticated. A large screened porch (right) extends the first floor for maximized indoor/outdoor living.

the architect hadn't planned them. "This wall in the kitchen wasn't here at first; it was more open to the living room," Debby notes. Ostensibly, they preferred a slightly more closed space as it adds a cozier feel and allows for an element of privacy, but the real reason is more walls for hanging paintings. "Once you start buying art, once you start living with art, you realize how important it is in your surroundings. It just makes your whole place come alive," she continues.

While paintings occupy most of the wall space, a few spots are set aside for photography and sculpture. A stunning black-and-white Florida beach scene by photographer Jonah Allen, a life-size photo of the bottom of a pool hand-painted by an Australian artist, and a playful glass sculptural of figurines sitting on a pool deck—all very different mediums reflecting Debby's draw to the water. "It's just the whole way of life—the smell, the casualness of it, the good times you have with people," she remarks about their return to Sullivan's. "Maybe it's because I'm a Pisces. There's just something about the coast that I love."

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Charleston Magazine Club gathered at Rancho Lewis as part of a collaboration with Charleston Cocktail Week, getting a preview of the restaurant's riff on a piña colada. Members sampled what chef John Lewis calls "border food-meets-cowboy cuisine" at his restaurant on the upper peninsula. Delicious offerings included sizzling steak fajitas, a West Texas wedge salad, and a refreshing shrimp cocktail.

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Rancho Lewis served juicy shrimp cocktail, among many tasty bites.

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Guests sampled the Clearly Piña, the signature cocktail created by Rancho Lewis for Charleston Cocktail Week.

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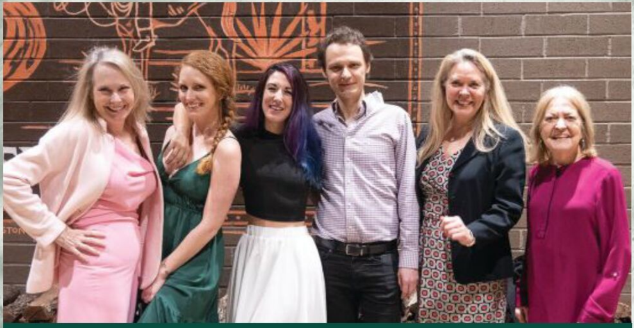

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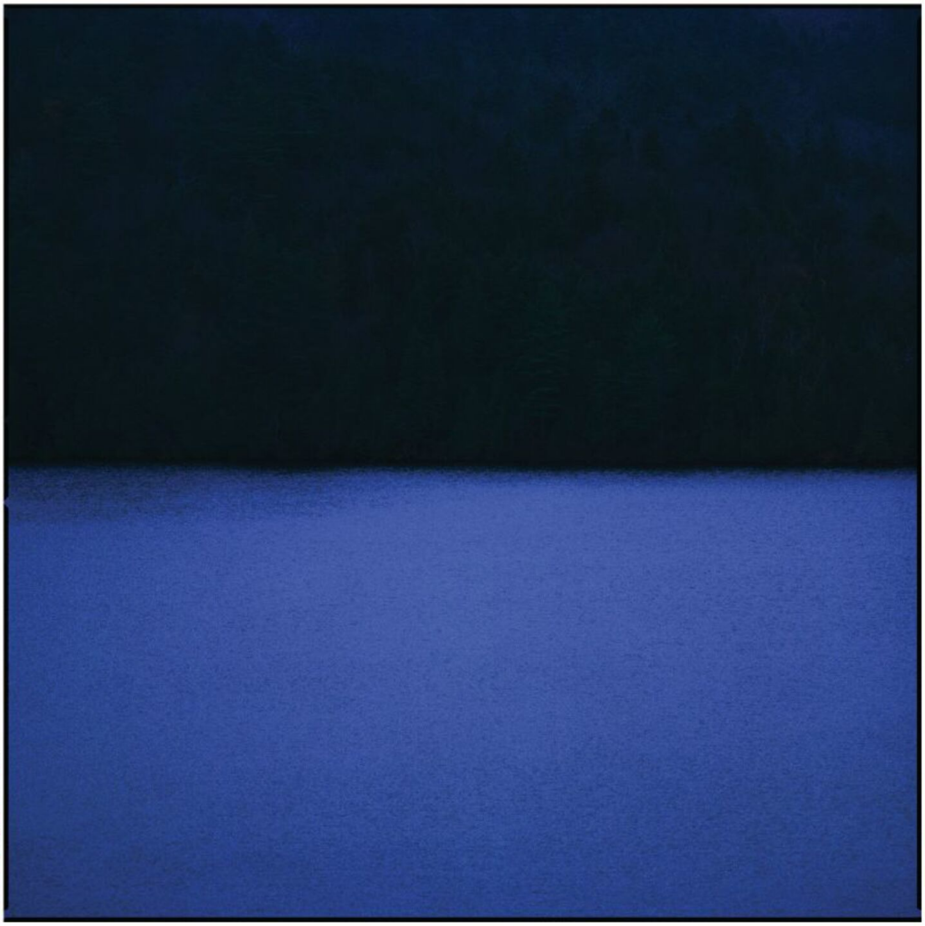

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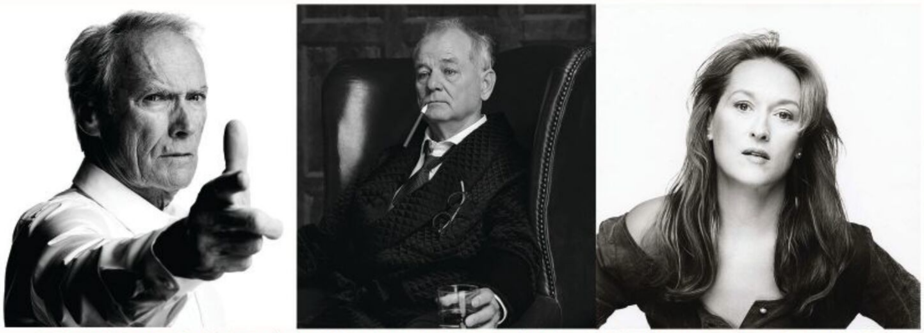

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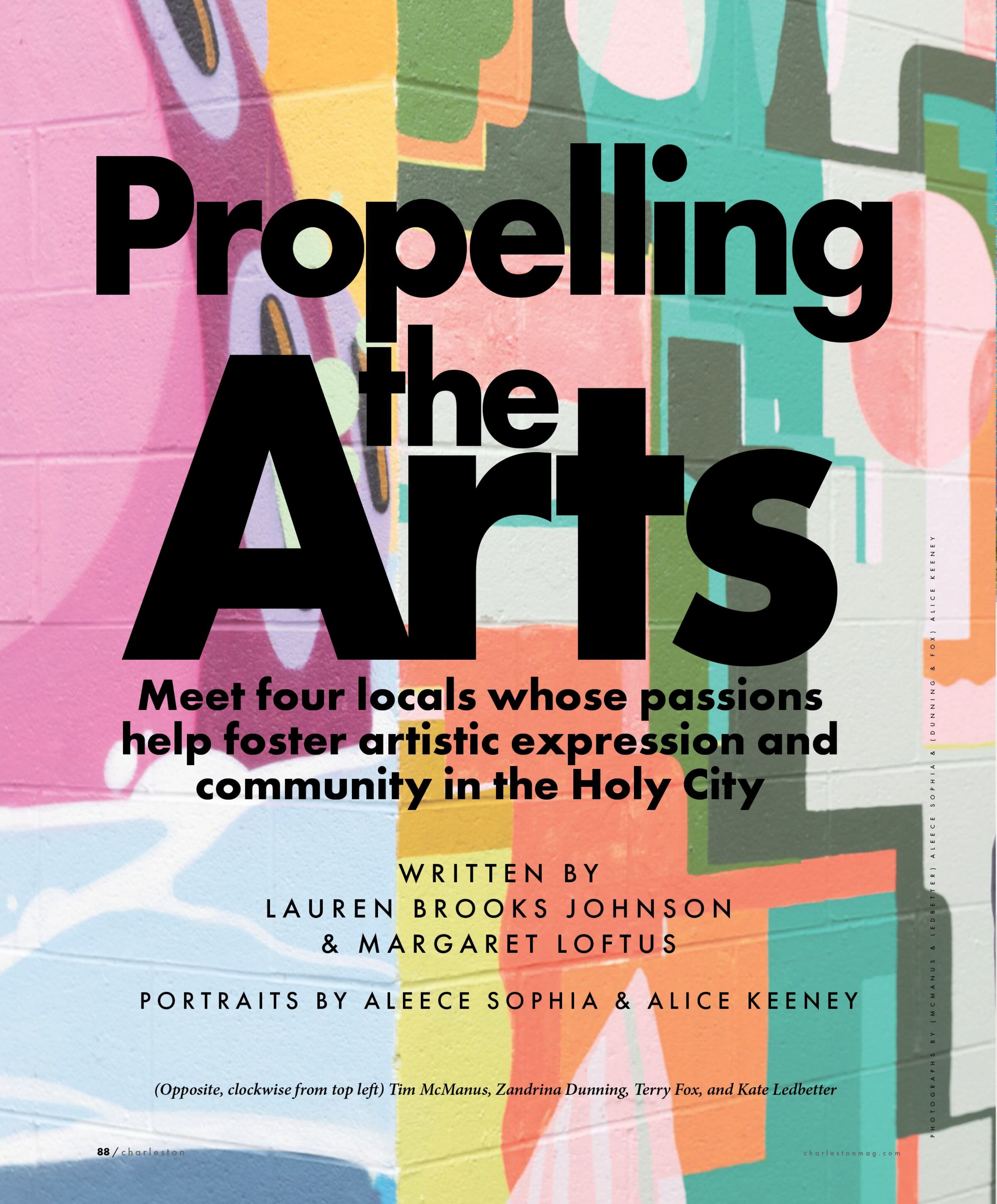

Propelling the Arts

Meet four locals whose passions help foster artistic expression and community in the Holy City

WRITTEN BY
LAUREN BROOKS JOHNSON
& MARGARET LOFTUS

PORTRAITS BY ALEECE SOPHIA & ALICE KEENEY

(Opposite, clockwise from top left) Tim McManus, Zandrina Dunning, Terry Fox, and Kate Ledbetter

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (MCMANUS & LEDBETTER) ALEECE SOPHIA & (DUNNING & FOX) ALICE KEENEY

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Tim McManus

HED HI STUDIO

Curating colorful works on Upper King Street

Tim McManus had just moved his video production company, Hed Hi Media, into a studio on Upper King when buyer's remorse set in. It was 2014, and he had already started to renovate the space formerly occupied by the Center for Photography. Pulling out of the deal would be complicated. "I thought I had made a mistake."

Enter Shepard Fairey. The renowned street artist and Charleston native happened to be painting a mural in the same complex a few buildings down—one of four in the city as part of an exhibition at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art. A client of Hed Hi, the Halsey had commissioned a short film on Fairey's installations. One day during filming, the artist and crew took a break from the heat at McManus's new space. "There was this kind of creative energy that was swirling around that afternoon, and I remember [thinking] if we can replicate this and keep it going, then it's not a mistake," he says.

Nine years later, the creative energy is still swirling strong. Not only has Hed Hi thrived, but the space has become the locus of a public art corridor project spearheaded by McManus, whose experience with Fairey sparked a deep fascination with street art. And now, he's transformed it into a pop-up gallery for works he describes as the intersection of street and surf art.

A College of Charleston alum, McManus dabbled in photography and surf-instructing before he found his calling on the business side of creative projects while working for a magazine out of Atlanta. He set a goal to own his own business before he turned 40, which he realized in 2013, with a month to spare, when he bought the video production unit from his then-employer Production Design Associates, a local event firm.

After a Silicon Valley start-up client was swallowed up by Oracle, which then hired Hed Hi, the phone didn't stop ringing. By 2017, McManus employed 14 staff between Charleston and an outpost in Berkeley, California, and was on the road two weeks out of every month, allowing him to indulge his passion for street art. "Inevitably, I'd have some time to kill so I started looking for Shepard's murals or just murals in general."

Inspired by his sorties to public art corridors such as London's Shoreditch and Wynwood Walls in Miami, he began to imagine the Fairey mural in his studio complex as one of many. "I started thinking, 'Somebody should paint murals on these walls,'" he says. "And then I realized nobody was going to do that unless I was going to do that." McManus reached out on Instagram to New York artist Jason Woodside, who painted one exterior wall of Hed Hi in a vivid geometric pattern. Other projects from the likes of San Francisco graffiti writer Apexer, Belgian artist Adele Renault, and local Jonathan Rypkema soon followed. "The long-term goal is that this spot will have a sense of discovery for people—like, 'Oh, what is this place?'"

More and more people have come to know the space, for its bright walls, as well as the pop-up shows McManus has been curating there. When the pandemic hit, Hed Hi's calendar of corporate gigs—chock-full for 18 months out—evaporated in a matter of days. Like many employers, McManus shifted his staff to remote work and was faced once again with whether to keep his studio. In his idle time, he caught the documentary *Beautiful Losers* about a group of so-called DIY artists, including Fairey, and the Lower East Side gallery, Alleged, that launched them to success. "They built this community around this one space," he says. "I thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool if I could craft a community of artists that had a certain vibe that I liked?'"

McManus bided his time through COVID by making a wish list of the artists whose work he admired. Fast-forward to his one-night-only "Water Show" in September 2021, featuring works by surf artists such as Kate Barattini and Taylor Faulkner. By all accounts, it was a hit with some 300 people attending. Since then, he's averaged about a show a month. On tap for May: "Check It," with Southern California surf artist Andy Davis and legendary surfboard shaper Jon Wegener.

Hed Hi's business is back, but McManus is no longer traveling at the same frenetic pace. He'd rather focus on forging connections at home, spending more time with his family—wife, Cassie; daughter, Tucker, 14; and son, Angus, 12—at their new home on Folly Beach and planning his next shows. "[The pop-ups] are kind of an experiment," he says. "The community and the friendships I've built have certainly made it worth it." For now, he's content with focusing on shows that last one night, or a few days, tops. "It's just like street art itself, there's a huge sense of impermanence to it all. Some of that's represented in surfing, you know. The swells don't last forever." ***—Margaret Loftus***

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (PORTRAIT) ALEECE SOPHIA & (MURAL) BELLA BARBER

Tim McManus turned his video production studio and its surrounding complex into a vibrant public art corridor, with murals, like this one by Jason Woodside (opposite), as well as an inspiring and ephemeral space for pop-up art shows, such as March's "Statement Pieces: A Departure from Neutrality," the gallery's largest exhibition to date.

Up Next!

April 28: "Continua"
Local artists Jonathan Rypkema and Adam Eddy
Friday, 6-10 p.m.

May 20: "Check It"
West Coast surf artists Andy Davis and Jon Wegener
Saturday, 6-10 p.m.

654 King St., hedhistudio.com

> **"The long-term goal is that this spot will have a sense of discovery for people—like, 'Oh, what is this place?'"**

> “These artists are all positive, uplifting, and inspiring, not only in their music but also their dispositions.”

The producer at Fox Music House, the new home of her P.U.R.E. concert series; (opposite) the 2019 “Queen of Soul: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin” crowd-pleaser, featuring Black Diamond at Charleston Music Hall

Up Next!

May 26: “Love Is”
Featuring Zandrina Dunning
Friday, 7-9 p.m.
& 9:30-11:30 p.m.
$25, $30 (premium), $40 (VIP)
Forte Jazz Lounge, 477 King St.

May 31: “Summertime Jazz”
dinner show featuring Dunning
Wednesday, 7:30-9 p.m. $65
New Realm Brewing,
880 Island Park Dr.
eventbrite.com

Zandrina Dunning

THE ZD EXPERIENCE

Producing musical extravaganzas and uplifting lives

“T*urn the radio up. I can’t get enough.... Wanna give it to the world. Can’t keep it all to myself....*” On the TedxCharleston stage last spring, vocalist Zandrina Dunning sang of love and good vibes, drawing the audience into a rhythmic groove. The song, “Cascades,” which she cowrote with Stephen Washington, embodies her belief in the power of music to revive and connect. “In a world full of chaos and turmoil, it’s important to get back to love, and a tool that we use is music,” she explained into the mic.

Now, perched behind the sound board at Ohm Radio, where she works as program coordinator and host of the biweekly show *The ZD Experience*, the 41-year-old talks of the links between the Earth’s vibrations, musical energy, and personal well-being. “Vibrations in music have the ability to help release you from fear and help the healing process.” That conviction resonates with each measured career step this entrepreneurial impresario makes.

Every Tuesday and Thursday at noon, Dunning reaches out to Lowcountry listeners with her community-focused program. From Ohm’s studio tucked in The Refinery, she chats with wellness experts, musicians and singers, cancer survivors, business owners, and more. “I love hearing about my guests’ journeys and applying inspiration from their stories to my life,” says the host.

As a young girl, Dunning wanted to be a news anchor, but still remembers her mom beaming with pride after she took to the stage during a third-grade performance. “There was something about that interaction that stuck,” says Dunning, who began singing in the church choir. As a SC State University student, she “dibbled and dabbled a little” at the school radio station while earning a BA in music industry studies. Twenty years later, she’s found a balance between her anchorwoman dream and absolute love of performance, but her talents reverberate far beyond the 96.3 airwaves.

In the earliest days of the pandemic, as the term “essential workers” made headlines, Dunning reflected on the essential nature of live music. “We were on lockdown. The streets were bare. We needed some type of revitalization, and I knew music could provide that.” So in 2020, she and Washington launched the P.U.R.E. (Peace, Unity, and Revival through Entertainment) concert series at Forte Jazz Lounge, kicking off with “amazing drummer/vocalist extraordinaire” StaLaV. Their initial vision has since rippled into an annual showcase of intimate live performances held from November through March. “These artists are all positive, uplifting, and inspiring, not only in their music but also their dispositions,” notes Dunning. For its most recent season, the series moved into Fox Music House. Looking to season four, Dunning promises “growth” with a smile that hints at seriously amplified plans.

The vocalist regularly takes the spotlight as a solo performer, as a duo with Washington on keys, and alongside Charleston Jazz Orchestra. Last August, Dunning teamed up with Lindsay Holler and other lyrical ladies for “Women & Bond,” a tribute to iconic 007 soundtracks. “I chose some powerful songs by really powerful women,” says Dunning. In a bejeweled white gown, she crooned “Diamonds Are Forever” before changing into a fiery red dress for a fierce rendition of the *GoldenEye* theme. “The concert and event producer in me sometimes comes out when I’m performing,” she laughs. Under The ZD Experience umbrella, Dunning also curates full-scale tribute shows to the reigning divas of soul, including Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner, and Gladys Knight.

In February, the single mom staged a different sort of show, performing at the School of the Arts, where her daughter plays clarinet, as part of her school outreach program, Hall Pass. Launched last year at the urging of jazz drummer and Sedgefield Middle assistant principal David Patterson, the program invites professional musicians to perform for and interact with middle and high schoolers. This half-hour “escape from their day-to-day” aims to build confidence and inspire positivity.

After the group’s first session, Patterson shared with Dunning the story of a seventh grader who was being bullied and had been contemplating suicide. “I remembered her commenting that we’d played her favorite song, Bob Marley’s ‘Three Little Birds.’ That song at that time had the power to save her,” says Dunning. “As creatives, we have something special,” reflects the vocalist, “and that’s the ability to change lives.”

—Lauren B. Johnson

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (PORTRAIT) ALICE KEENEY & (CONCERT) EVERETT ZURAW

Kate Ledbetter

REDUX CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

Ensuring space and support for emerging talents

Kate Ledbetter had only been on the job as executive director of Redux Contemporary Art Center for a month when the first shows under her leadership opened on the same night in September 2022. “We don’t ever know exactly what the artists are going to show up with,” she says. And the three exhibitions debuting that evening could not have been more disparate: In the main gallery, seasoned textile artists Mikki Blackman and Deborah Donovan Rice collaborated on an installation and brought in an improv jazz group for ambience. Nick Kawczynski and Jillian Thorvaldson, a couple of young emerging artists fresh from Redux’s Lightning Residency program, were pouring margaritas in the back gallery to complement a series of ink drawings of tequila bottles. And Daisy McClellan showed a collection of her textile work in the middle space entitled “Art Before Dishes” (a mantra that particularly resonates with Ledbetter, a mother of two young boys).

Turns out it all just clicked. “When I tell you it was a party, I felt like I was in a club,” says Carson Carroll, Redux’s education and outreach director. At one point in the evening, Ledbetter allowed herself to soak it all in. “The work wasn’t speaking to each other, and the crowds were totally different. But they were all moving and supporting and seeing each other. That was really powerful,” she recalls. “It was like, ‘Man, this is good! These are all the things I love, and they’re happening!’”

Ledbetter has a knack for making magic happen. It’s been a through line in a career that started after she graduated in 2004 from College of Charleston, where she studied historic preservation and, coincidentally, lived across the street from Redux when it was on St. Philip Street. (It moved to the North Central neighborhood five years ago.) Her first job out of school was at Drayton Hall, where she spent six years, including a summer fellowship at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. “I feel like I really started to understand the nonprofit world and how that played into preservation but also the larger spectrum of the arts and conservation efforts,” Ledbetter says.

Subsequent gigs have included working in development at the South Carolina Aquarium and, most recently, at her children’s school Charleston Collegiate. Fundraising is something she feels called to do. “People tend to shy away from development,” she says. “I know what it takes to ensure the programming continues and the lights stay on. I’m willing to do it, so y’all can just create.”

Art, meanwhile, is another constant in Ledbetter’s life. She grew up on Hilton Head in a household that placed a premium on creativity—her parents had an extensive collection of Leroy Neiman prints, and her grandmother was a prolific painter. “I don’t think until recently that I knew what a big impact that had. I love to create, but I don’t have formal practice,” she says.

Ledbetter and her husband, Brian, a musician, are intent on making art a part of their children’s lives (see “Art Before Dishes”). One of their first dates, in fact, was a screen-printing course at the old Redux. More recently, she channeled her creativity as host of her own show on Ohm Radio, which evolved into her becoming the station’s programming chair and serving on the board.

That her passions eventually collided last year when she took the reins at Redux (which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary), surprised no one except her. “It’s a dream having ended up here,” she says. “I mean, these are my people, this is the place I wanted to be, this is the kind of work I want to do. It’s incredible.”

Since stepping into the role, Ledbetter has been focusing on creating a cohesive development plan that includes growing programming and membership. She’s particularly intent on showcasing more diverse voices in the studio and on the board. “A huge goal of mine is continuing to serve the community and growing that in a really effective way to represent all the people of Charleston.”

Perhaps most of all, she’s excited about carrying on Redux’s mission to create space for artists, emerging or established, to be in community and get exposure through the annual auction and shows—like that first one. Now, she says, “That kind of magic happens daily.”

—Margaret Loftus

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (PORTRAIT) ALEECE SOPHIA & (WORKSHOP) KATE LEDBETTER

> “I know what it takes to ensure the programming continues and the lights stay on. I’m willing to do it so y’all can just create.”

On View

Through May 20:
“Interwoven,” a solo show by Jordan Sheridan
“Unfolding,” an installation by Jenifer Padilla
“Salvage,” a collaborative exhibit by Lightning Residency artists Caroline Herring and Nathan McClements

June 15: Open Studios
Thursday, 5-8 p.m.

1056 King St., reduxstudios.org

Kate Ledbetter in the main gallery during the “Only Once in the Light” exhibition by Leigh Sabisch and Allison Koch; the former Redux board member, now executive director, says she’s working to grow the visual art center’s membership and programming to “represent all the people of Charleston.” (Opposite) Charleston Charter School for Math & Science students participated in a printing workshop in February.

Terry Fox

CHARLESTON ARTS FESTIVAL

Amplifying an array of creative locals on multiple stages

With a playful grin perched beneath his signature dark-rimmed spectacles, Terry Fox gives the impression of a boy who's up to a little mischief. As the cofounder and associate director of Charleston Arts Festival (CAF), he helps push the boundaries of what some consider worthy art, focusing on the quirky, peculiar, and otherwise unseen sides of the Lowcountry's imagination. "When Charleston Arts Festival started, we sort of saw ourselves as the non-Spoleto, wanting to appeal to a younger, less-moneyed demographic," he explains of the series that launched in 2016 as a "reimagining" of cofounder Andrew Walker's former "Jail Break" events.

Since then, the jovial producer has showcased artistic talent on a variety of platforms, including exhibitions of rising visual artists, high-energy music and dance performances, and quarterly PechaKucha gatherings for locals to share what inspires them. "The Charleston community seems endlessly open to what goes on in the creative arena," says Fox.

When "PechaKucha 42" presenters step on the Charleston Music Hall stage this month, the series will have featured nearly 350 inspiring residents. They have ranged from Tiffany Silverman, who brought arts programming to The Citadel; to urbanist and developer Vince Graham, who spoke of civic art, public design, and the "soul-sucking commute" that ensues with auto-dependent sprawl; to Farrah Hoffmire, whose HEART Inclusive Arts Community powerfully demonstrated the spirits and talents of differently abled adults.

And though Fox says he's not out to shock audiences, PechaKucha generated quite a buzz in 2018 when local hip-hop artist Benjamin Starr asked, "Do you really want a Charleston for Black people?" "I knew he was going to be provocative, but it's a question worthy of consideration," remarks Fox.

By choosing a diverse roster of presenters, the PechaKucha programmer aims to broaden audience members' perceptions of art, often inviting creatives from outside the typical realm of musicians, painters, and poets. He's booked a landscape designer, taxidermist, a food critic, and pig farmer. Next up this month: a tattoo artist. "I want people to think, 'Why the hell did he include that speaker?' And I want that question to be answered."

The one answer the seemingly ageless Fox won't give, however, is his age, though he wryly notes that he's writing his obituary, "just in case *The Post & Courier* wants to publish it." The North Carolina native's eclectic resume hints at his vintage, however. After earning an English degree from UNC Chapel Hill, Fox accepted his first job as one of five white educators at W. Gresham Meggett, the all-Black high school on James Island, in 1968, Charleston County School District's final year of segregation. Fox went on to work as the director of educational services at an inpatient psychiatric hospital and dean of students for both Johnson & Wales and later, the Art Institute of Charleston. "I think being engaged with younger minds and energies has kept me aware of current thinking and the direction of art in the world," he says. "I realized early on the vitality of art."

I'M THE SIMONE BILES OF SMALL TALK!
3:20

Against this professional backdrop blazes a vibrant swath of volunteer work within the artistic community, from his collaboration devising the Marble Arch Gallery in the former Garden Theater in the early '80s to the ambitious multidisciplinary kickoff for CAF in 2016. Fifteen years ago, Fox joined with arts advocates of all stripes to create Charleston Creative Parliament, the culture collaborative that first brought the PechaKucha series to the Lowcountry. And since then, he has served as a board member for the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, the College of Charleston's School of the Arts Council, and PURE Theatre.

Fox habitually surrounds himself with friends and colleagues who are creative in one way or another. "I'm drawn to people who have crazier ideas and want to shake things up." And it's through such colorful relationships that this clever art liaison has built his career. In a way, Fox himself is an artist, sculpting venues and entertainment into multisensory displays designed to affect a crowd. "I guess," he chuckles, "I just love throwing a good party."

—Lauren B. Johnson

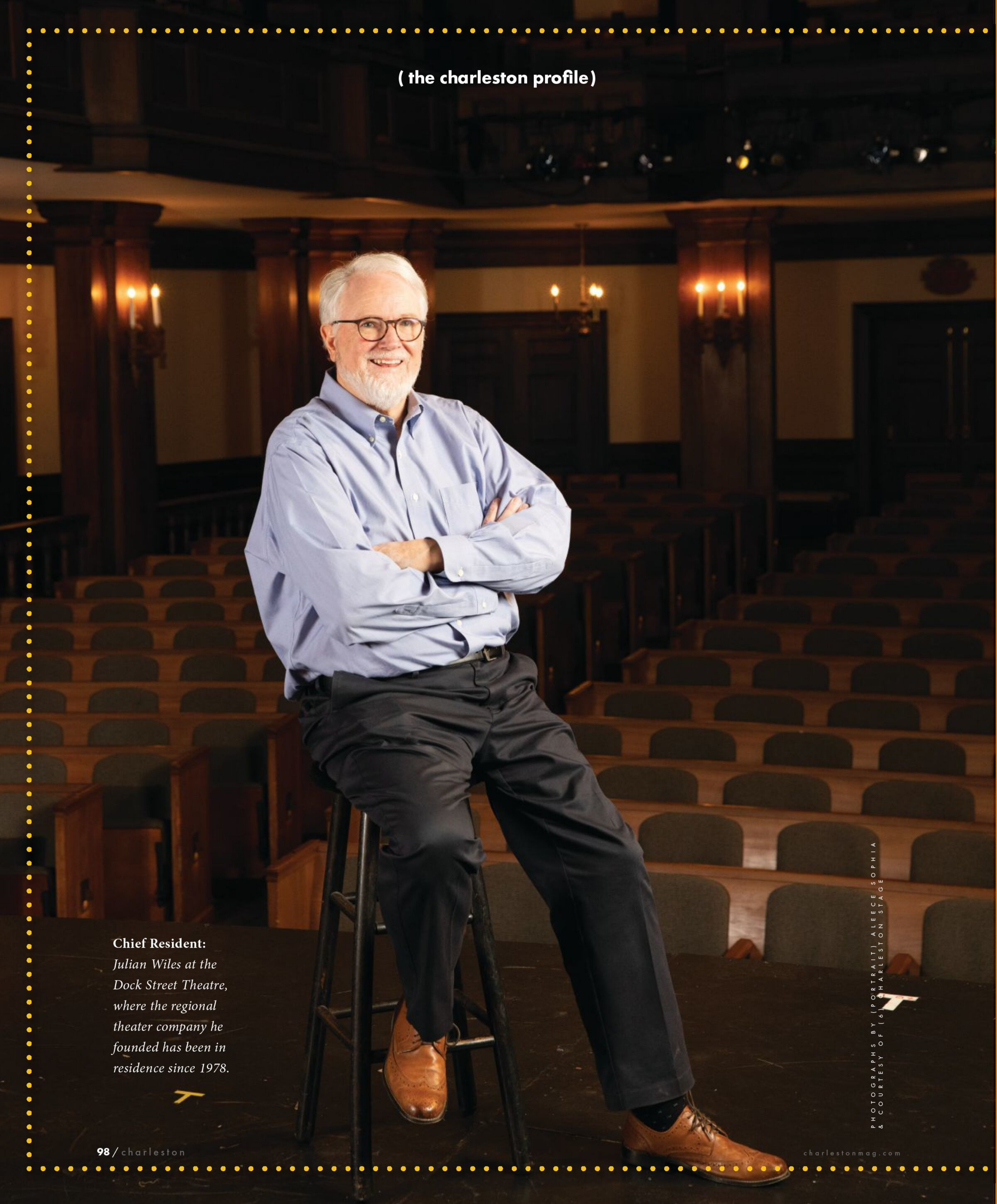
PHOTOGRAPHS BY (PORTRAIT) ALICE KEENEY
& COURTESY OF (1) CHARLESTON ARTS FESTIVAL

"I'm drawn to people who have crazier ideas and want to shake things up."

Up Next!

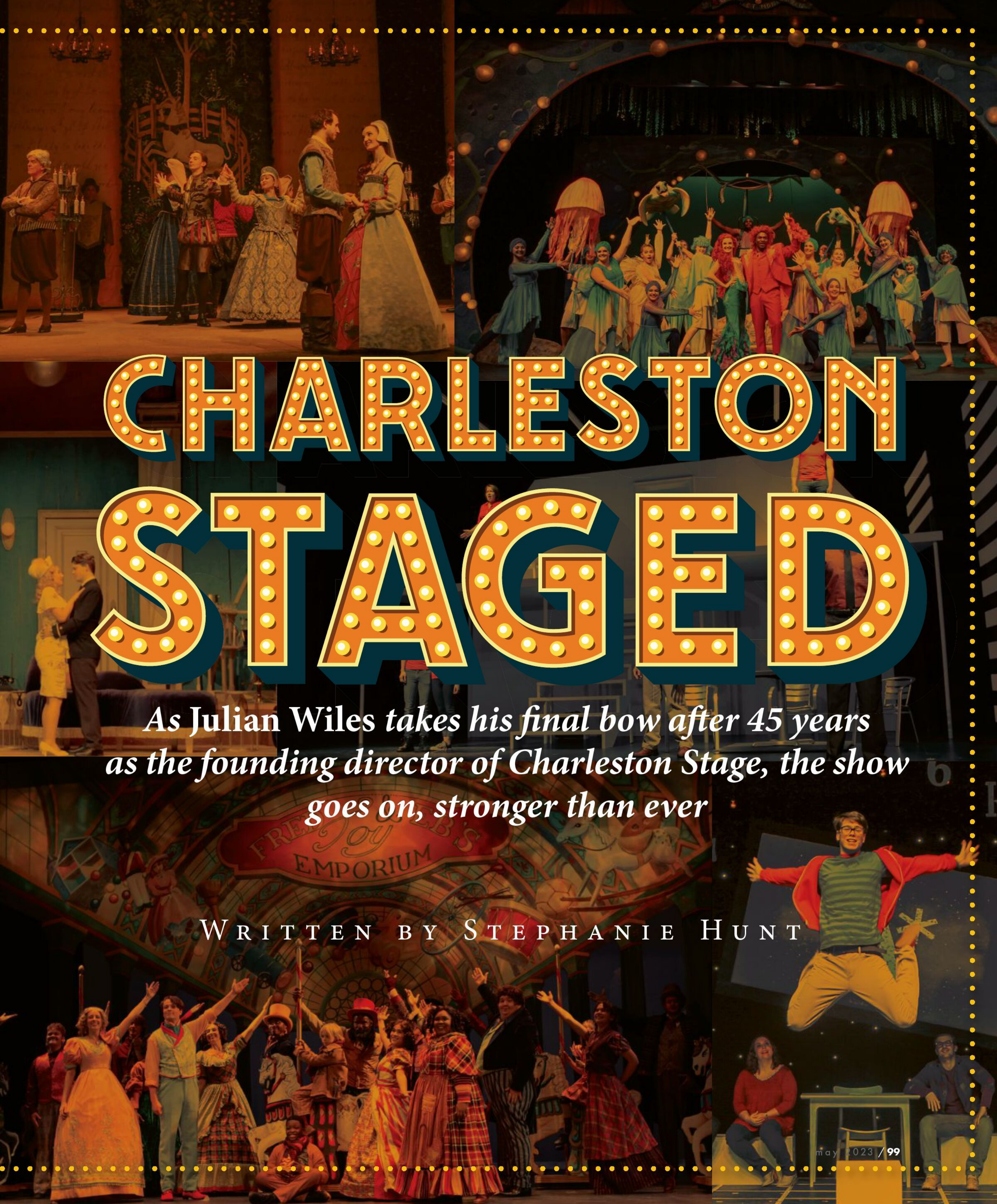
May 3:
PechaKucha 42
Charleston Music Hall, 37 John St.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. $12.
charlestonmusichall.com
charlestonartsfestival.com

Terry Fox in his art-filled home on John's Island; (opposite) Last summer, Black Food Fridays founder KJ Kearney presented at PechaKucha, a series of talks from local creatives on what inspires them.



Chief Resident: *Julian Wiles at the Dock Street Theatre, where the regional theater company he founded has been in residence since 1978.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (PORTRAIT) ALEECE SOPHIA
& COURTESY OF (6) CHARLESTON STAGE



CHARLESTON STAGED

As **Julian Wiles** *takes his final bow after 45 years as the founding director of Charleston Stage, the show goes on, stronger than ever*

WRITTEN BY STEPHANIE HUNT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
PETITION
CLARENDON COUNTY
November 11, 1949
Wherefore,
the undersigned petitioners request that
the School Board of District 22 immediately
cease discrimination against Negro Children
in said district and immediately make
available to all Negro children educational
advantages and facilities equal in all
respects to that provided white students.

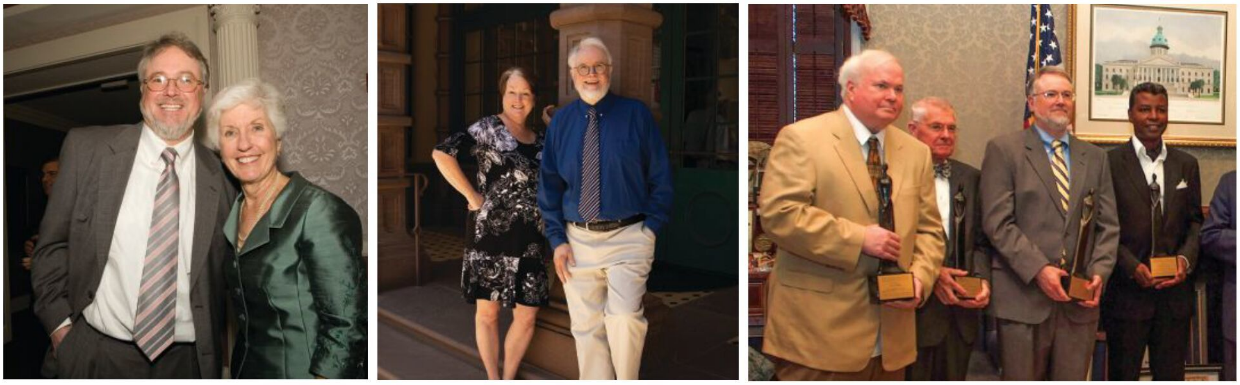
Filling Seats: *Wiles launched Charleston Stage in 1978 with little more than a dream and has grown it to an award-winning professional company known for presenting challenging, moving, and entertaining productions, like* The Seat of Justice *(above), a Wiles's original produced in 2004 and 2016 that explored racism and South Carolina's role in the* Brown v. Board of Education *decision.*

ACT 1, SCENE 1

The year is 1976. It's summer in Charleston—stifling and central air conditioning not yet a thing on the peninsula. Stage right, in a corner by the third-floor windows looking out on Church Street from the Dock Street Theatre, picture a hammock. Probably a mid-70s hippy-ish macramé type thing, the kind a 25-year-old fresh out of grad school, scrounging to make ends meet, would hang in his one-room flat in a musty old downtown building.

"Hard to believe, right? This was my first apartment when I moved back to Charleston after grad school at Chapel Hill," says Julian Wiles, our one-time hammock hanger, who as founding director of Charleston Stage, the regional theater company in residence at the Dock Street, still more or less "lives" in this building. It's hard to imagine this polished space (now restored and owned/managed by the City of Charleston)—its gleaming conference table, leather chairs, and stern portraits on the walls—with a mattress on the floor, boho tapestries tacked over the windows, and a makeshift kitchen in one corner. But "Charleston was a different place back then," notes a now silver-tinged Wiles, his eyes still boyishly sparkly, slightly mischievous. "There were only a handful of restaurants, Spoleto was brand new—only a year old—and what counted as tourism season was house and garden tours in March and April, but that was it."

Today, throngs of tourists, as well as devoted locals, are among the steady ticket buyers who have helped make Wiles' theater company one of the city's marquee arts organizations. It would take a set designer of serious vision and a scriptwriter of unique talent to craft a drama where the guy wistfully daydreaming in a hot, third-floor apartment in Scene 1 winds up, 45 years later, conducting board meetings in that very same room, his dream now a thriving reality. Charleston Stage's well-heeled board reviews multimillion-dollar budgets and HR policies for a full-time staff of 37. It's a good thing Wiles, who specialized in set design while earning his MFA in dramatic art from UNC Chapel Hill, is indeed a man of serious talent and scriptwriter of unique vision, among other backstage tricks.



(Left to right) Wiles's dedicated donors include long-standing supporters like Mary Ellen Way and The Sottile Foundation; Marybeth Clark has worked alongside Wiles since 1997 and will step into his shoes as artistic director; In 2010, Wiles was honored with The Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award (now known as the Governor's Award for the Arts), alongside author Pat Conroy and artist Jonathan Green.

To act is to soar
on the wings
of the imagination . . .

"Education has always been integral to who we are," says Wiles, who founded the company for youth theater. Today, the TheatreSchool summer program (formerly called SummerStage) introduces 300-some children to the theater arts.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (THEATRESCHOOL-2) KATE THORNTON PHOTOGRAPHY & COURTESY OF (6) CHARLESTON STAGE

"Theater is like family," says Wiles, whose own family (daughter Marianna, Wiles's late mother Erline, son Nicholas, and wife Jenny Hane) has been involved in Charleston Stage in numerous capacities, from sewing costumes to participating in the school. (Right) Wiles and Jenny, a retired educator

Broad Casting: *Large-scale productions with custom-tailored costumes, professionally designed scenes, and full hair and makeup are what audiences have come to expect from the city's most established theater company. This photograph was featured in the 2010-11 ticket brochure to represent all of the productions that season.*

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CHARLESTON STAGE

Act 1, Scene 2

Backdrop: a mural of a fading rural landscape picturing a cotton farm in Fort Motte, South Carolina, population 150. In this tiny Upstate crossroads named for the famous Revolutionary battle fought there, Wiles grew up as an only child. While his father farmed and his mother managed the books, their inquisitive youngster explored. "I was curious about a lot of things," says the avid student who loved science, history, and reading. Wiles dabbled in photography, often with a homemade pinhole camera, and made animated films with an 8mm camera. "I had a dark room at age 10. The chemical reactions and the whole process fascinated me," he says.

That proclivity for distilling ideas into scenes and watching something emerge from a blank canvas (or photo paper) found another outlet during the summers that Wiles, then a student at the College of Charleston, spent as a counselor at Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island. And what says summer camp more than nightly skits? "I loved the fun of improv and discovered I really enjoyed working with kids," says Wiles, who went to New York at the end of one of those summers with a camp colleague.

There, they saw Broadway productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Godspell*, his first exposure to professional theater, besides a trip to see *Hello, Dolly!* at age 10. "The *Godspell* production intrigued me most because it didn't have all the expensive bells and whistles; it was pared down and very simple—a good lesson early on that you don't need a million-dollar budget to create something wonderful," says Wiles. Back at the college, the history major indulged his budding interest in theater by taking classes under Emmett Robinson, the head of the Footlight Players and legendary father of Charleston's theater community. And to continue working with kids, Wiles volunteered with the youth group at St. Philip's Church. There, to great acclaim, he directed a production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Bringing the types of shows he loved on Broadway to South of Broad, Wiles was finding his niche. "I had always been curious about storytelling and art, about making things and

In Tune: *Musicals and original screenplays and scores are regulars in the company's lineup, including the production of* Gershwin at Folly *in 2007. The Gershwin family and estate made the full catalogue available to Wiles, who was able to incorporate the original full-scale music.*

working with kids, and theater allowed me to explore all of that," says Wiles, who went straight to graduate school after college. He returned to Charleston in 1976 to work as Robinson's assistant (and hammock-hang in the upper reaches of the Dock Street). A year later, Robinson retired, and Wiles began to hatch his idea to start a youth-specific theater enterprise, something the city lacked at the time.

"I believe kids are the most imaginative people on the planet, and it's important to respect and validate that," he says. Not only was there no production company that took young audiences and young actors seriously, the types of performances that were offered in the late '70s were limited mostly to fairy tales. Wiles knew there could be more. After a chance meeting with Ellen Dressler Moryl, the first director of the city's newly created Office of Cultural Affairs, Wiles was hired by Mayor Joe Riley and Moryl to assist with Piccolo Spoleto and other programs, as well as help create the Young Charleston Theatre Company.

ACT 2, SCENE 1

Stage left: An air of enthusiastic chaos; a motley volunteer crew hustles about; trial and error abound. "It's a little bit true to say I started a theater company so I could live in Charleston," Wiles admits. "It's also true that if I had any idea then how much money it took to run one and that it's not unlike running a real business, I probably would never have done this," he adds. But if ignorance is bliss, then bliss makes good show biz.

Two years after launching the youth company, Wiles left his job with the city to become full-time manager of his nascent company (renamed Charleston Stage in 1998) in residence at the Dock Street. Their first season opened with a 1978 staging of *A Christmas Carol*, complete with fresh greenery and Christmas trees hauled down from Wiles's childhood farm, costumes he and his then-girlfriend-now-wife Jenny Hane and volunteers helped sew, sets they painted, and programs they printed themselves. Scrappy? Indeed. Successful? That, too.

With one classic under his belt, Wiles presented two more shows that inaugural season, both originals. He was wasting no time boldly exercising his own creative muscle, not to mention skateboarding muscles. The first Wiles original, *CaroliniAntics*, paid homage to South Carolina heritage and history—something the dramaturge has become known for in his 30 some original plays and adaptations—and featured a young Evelyn McGee, now better known as Evie Colbert (i.e., the only guest who routinely upstages the host of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert)*. The second production, *Seize the*

PHOTOGRAPHS (4) COURTESY OF CHARLESTON STAGE

Street Smarts: *The company's "first blockbuster," says Wiles, was his original musical,* Seize the Street!, *staged in 1979 on top of a parking garage (left). The half-pipe production was reprised in 1994 and (right) toured England in 1983.* Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat *was one of the first Broadway shows Wiles ever saw, and one of the first he produced as a College of Charleston student (below).*

ASHER
NAT
ZEBULUN
Reuben

Street!, was a skateboard musical staged on top of a George Street parking garage. "That put us on the map," Wiles notes. "Nobody in Charleston had seen a half-pipe before"—let alone a musical in a parking deck.

ACT 2, SCENE 2

Center stage: lights are high, and curtains rise to action—lots of it. Though Wiles isn't a Shepard Fairey-esque skater boy himself, that same sense of artistic daring, of finding your equilibrium and rhythm then ultimately catching air, that same street-smart gumption that made *Seize the Street!* "our first bona fide hit," says Wiles, has propelled Charleston Stage through 44 more seasons. What began basically as a one-man show has expanded to a professional company with a paid 23-member acting ensemble and a mission true to Wiles's lifelong passion for teaching and inspiring young people.

In addition to staging more than 320 productions involving more than 2,000 different performers over the years, Charleston Stage has emphasized education through its TheatreSchool classes for kids, TheatreWings apprentice program for high school students, and the opportunity for some half-million school children to attend free performances. And this month, the company begins CityStage, an annual free community tour series, which will bring a rousing musical version of *Treasure Island* to schools and communities throughout the Lowcountry.

"The education part is not some side job, not an afterthought, like 'Oh, they have some

> "It's a little bit true to say I started a theater company so I could live in Charleston." *—Julian Wiles*

PHOTOGRAPHS (3) COURTESY OF CHARLESTON STAGE

The Ghost of Theater Future: *Charles Dickens's* A Christmas Carol *was Charleston Stage's first production in 1978, complete with greenery hauled from Wiles' parents' farm and furniture schlepped from his apartment. Fresh takes on family-friendly classics have been a mainstay of the company's repertoire.*

classes,'" notes Marybeth Clark, who joined the staff in 1997 as director of education, and two years later added assistant artistic director to her title. Clark will serve as the new artistic director after Wiles steps down. "We have over 300 kids for our summer program. Our resident actors are learning from professionals. From day one, Julian has been passionate about education, and he's made an impact. We have former students who tell us their lives have changed as a result of studying and performing here."

That education has been ongoing for Wiles himself. "The best way to learn about theater is to hang out at the theater," says the playwright, director, nonprofit exec, and father of two, who are graduates of the TheatreWings program. His daughter, an educator, heads a high school drama program in California. "You learn theater by doing it, because the audience is really the teacher," adds Wiles. During a recent performance of *JFK and Inga Binga*—Wiles's play about the real-life Charleston fling between a young Navy ensign (Kennedy) and his Danish first love (a potential Nazi spy)—he did what he always does: watched the audience's reactions. "I'm constantly taking notes on whether the laugh lines are landing, whether or not people are getting bored, and then going back and making tweaks after each performance. There's a reason a playwright is called a *play'wright*,'" Wiles adds. "Because a play is never just written, it's *wrought*."

Over his four-decade learning curve, Wiles and Charleston Stage have evolved together, surviving three seasons without a stage home while the Dock Street underwent a $19-million renovation from 2007 to 2010, expanding how technological advances can improve set and lighting design, how live theater can pivot during a pandemic, and how a nonprofit can remain sustainable during recessions and economic downturns. Wiles's creativity and love of improv, as well as his farm-raised predilection for rolling up his sleeves, have come in handy navigating these numerous ups and downs. "Live theater is the last truly handmade thing," he says. "It's a living thing, with real living people on stage before you, which makes every performance different. You can't automate acting. You can't automate set design."

And sadly, neither can you automate financial support for a nonprofit arts organization, but clearly Wiles and his team have earned a solid ROI from the company's first "major gift" in 1978—a $250 donation from Melvin Solomon. Today, Charleston Stage's gala and auction raises some $100,000 annually and has netted more than $1.5 million since the first fundraising celebration in 1995.

Finale & Encore

Curtain falls: exit left, offstage. When season 45 closes, Wiles will exit left for the final time as head of Charleston Stage. His days

> "There's a reason a playwright is called a *play'wright,'* because a play is never just written, it's *wrought*."
> —*Julian Wiles*

of daydreaming from a hammock on the Dock Street's top floor are long over, but his indelible mark, name, and creative genius will long remain in residence at the nation's oldest theater and throughout the community, and indeed throughout the country, as company veterans have gone on to major stages.

Those include SummerStage actor Matt Shingledecker, who appeared on Broadway in *Rent*, *Wicked*, and *West Side Story*, and Emmy-winning actor Carrie Preston of *The Good Wife*, who returned to perform in Charleston Stage's 2010 *Love Letters*, having debuted as Anne Frank at the Dock Street 17 years earlier. Additionally, the high bar that Charleston Stage has set for regional theater has helped create a healthy, vibrant ecosystem that includes other professional companies, such as PURE Theatre, the Footlight Players, and Village Repertory Company.

Fact & Farce: *In this season's staging of* JFK and Inga Binga*, a reprise and revision of Wiles's work first produced in 2012, "I played it up more as a farce, while staying true to known facts," says Wiles. This is among the seven of his 30 original plays to be published.*

"Charleston Stage today is the antithesis of what it was like when I started," Wiles reminisces. With a deep bench of talent and community support, the company takes on bold productions, like last year's *Kinky Boots*, at a scale that Wiles never dreamed of when he was hauling holiday greenery from Calhoun County and hemming makeshift costumes. In the recent *JFK and Inga Binga*, for example, the stage was transformed into a glamorous teal-blue, mid-century modern Francis Marion Hotel suite, and Inga was outfitted in custom-designed tailored dresses reflecting late 1950s fashion. "I learned early on that the production side is key to reinforcing the story and providing a showcase for actors' talents," says Wiles, who today employs 20 professionals on his production team.

On May 1st, Wiles's title will officially change to director emeritus, and he's looking forward to handing over full creative leeway to Clark and the company's new managing director, Frank Mack. He'll likely still do some writing and is looking forward to travel and more time to see theater, but how retirement will play out is yet to be determined. What is sure, however, is that Wiles leaves a company on strong artistic, administrative, and financial footing.

"I feel incredibly lucky to have spent my time here working with and learning from Julian," says Clark, a trained actor who has starred in Charleston Stage productions as well as directed and produced them. "He's resilient but also even-keeled. But mostly I love that he's brave. He's willing to throw away the mold and embrace change. We spent COVID looking hard at what we can do better, and when we came back, while most local companies were scaling back, we came back big, doubled our resident acting company and put on a full season, and it paid off," says Clark. "Moving forward, I just hope I can be as brave as he is." C

Wiles at the Dock Street Theatre in 2010

WEB EXTRA:
Watch Wiles's campy JFK and Inga Binga *in its entirety, as well as other videos and trailers at charlestonmag.com.*

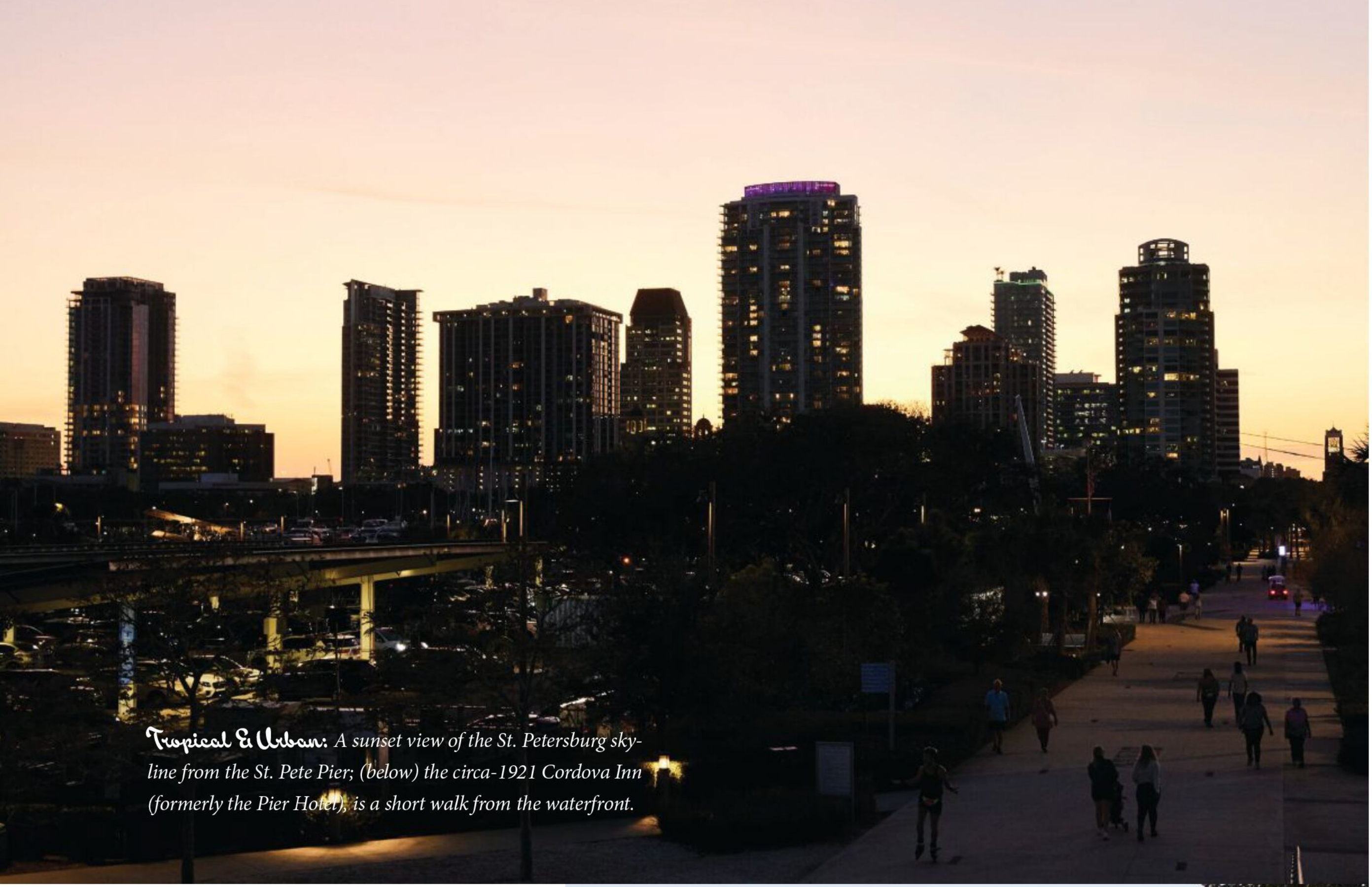
Bayside Beauty

FINDING A REFRESHING NEW TAKE ON THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND FOOD IN SUN-KISSED FLORIDA

Written by Sandy Lang
Photographs by Peter Frank Edwards

EXIT
Garden

Tampa Bay Views: *Sailboats bob at marina docks along the shore in downtown St. Petersburg (opposite). The art extends from the inside out at the Dalí Museum, which has a waterfront café and patio tables.*



Tropical & Urban: *A sunset view of the St. Petersburg skyline from the St. Pete Pier; (below) the circa-1921 Cordova Inn (formerly the Pier Hotel), is a short walk from the waterfront.*

Upon learning that one of the leading avant-garde artists of the 20th century likened a bayside stretch of Florida to the Mediterranean fishing village he adored, I thought, "Let's go." And we did just that one weekday afternoon, catching a nonstop flight from Charleston to Tampa (about 80 minutes in the air, CHS to TPA), arriving in downtown St. Petersburg just in time for sunset.

This is the shoreline that reminded Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) of seaside Spain. Overlooking the South Yacht Basin of the municipal marina, the Dalí Museum houses the largest collection of the surrealist artist's works in North America. While it's a primary draw for this visit, I'm curious about the broader arts and culture scene, too.

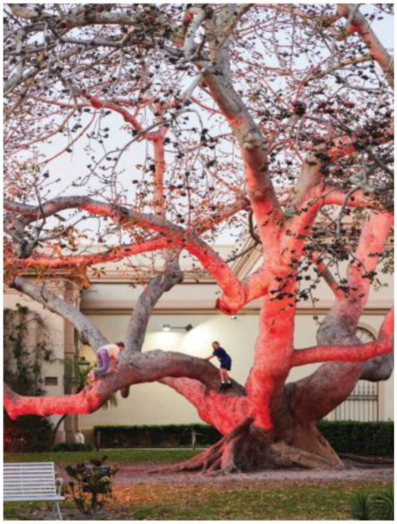
With famous Gulf Coast beaches a few miles to the west, downtown St. Petersburg is on the Tampa Bay side—a Florida

locale that many friends first visited on spring break road trips in college and that's inspired endearing nicknames, like "the Burg" and "St. Pete." About 500 miles southeast of Charleston and just across the bay from Tampa, it's a classic Florida destination that I'd heard has been evolving lately—still funky, but with a new vibrancy based on impressive cultural investments in the arts. Intrigued, photographer Peter Frank Edwards and I set out for two days and nights to explore and be inspired.

Hi, St. Pete

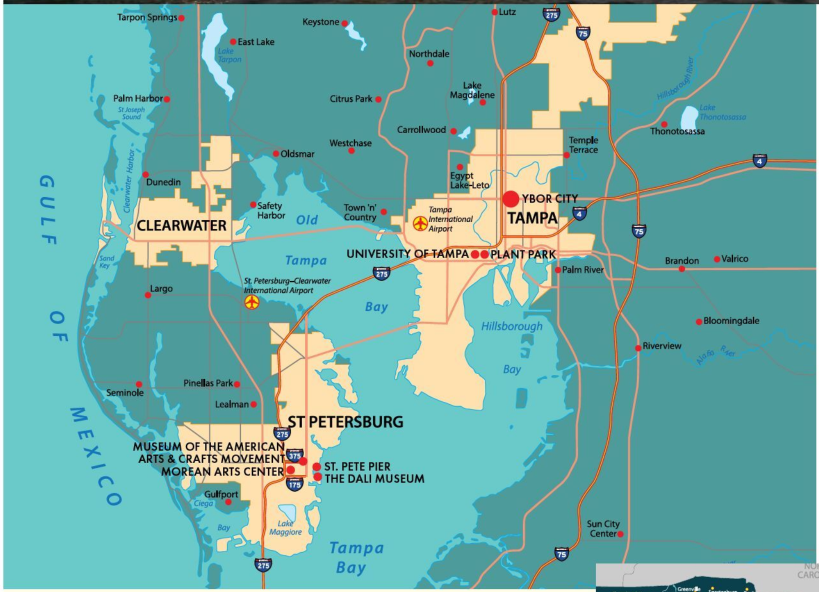
Views from our airport Uber ride (a Tesla—the first of several EV ride-shares this trip) are of tall, spiky palm trees arcing toward high rises in downtown St. Pete. First stop is our lodging, the century-old Cordova Inn, where guests step across a wide front porch lined with rocking chairs to check in. Inside and out, the inn looks like a vintage Florida postcard image tucked into a modern city block. The concierge notes they've just broken ground on a modern addition on the corner lot next door.

Following the sun's lowering beams, we quickly drop our bags in our second-floor room and walk toward the bay. In just a few blocks, we're joining other sunset-watchers along Bayshore Drive and on the paths and walkways of the St. Pete Pier, a public



Children climb a tree on Bayshore Drive near the St. Pete Pier.

Palms on the Pier: *Spanning 26 acres with grassy parkland, restaurants, and tall palm trees, the revamped St. Pete Pier connects directly to downtown.*


Tarpon Springs
Keystone
Lutz
East Lake
Lake Tarpon
Northdale
Lake Magdalene
Palm Harbor
St Joseph Sound
Citrus Park
Carrollwood
Thonotosassa
Lake Thonotosassa
Hillsborough River
Westchase
Oldsmar
Temple Terrace
Dunedin
Clearwater Harbor
Egypt Lake-Leto
YBOR CITY
TAMPA
Safety Harbor
Town 'n' Country
Tampa International Airport
CLEARWATER
Old
Tampa
Bay
UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA
PLANT PARK
Palm River
Brandon
Valrico
Sand Key
Largo
St. Petersburg–Clearwater International Airport
Hillsborough
Bay
Bloomingdale
Riverview
Alafia River
GULF OF MEXICO
Seminole
Pinellas Park
Lealman
ST PETERSBURG
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT
MOREAN ARTS CENTER
ST. PETE PIER
THE DALI MUSEUM
Gulfport
Clam Bay
Lake Maggiore
Tampa Bay
Sun City Center
275
75
4
375
175

Destination

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

FLIGHT: *From Charleston International Airport, Breeze airline offers a nonstop (1 hour 20 minutes) to Tampa International Airport (TPA). The "Nicest" service class is comparable to other carriers' first class—ultra-roomy seats, checked bag allowance, and snacks, as well as in-seat air conditioning and USB power outlets. flybreeze.com*

LOCAL TRANSPORT: *It's possible to get around without a rental car. Rideshares are available (TPA is 20 minutes to downtown Tampa and 30 minutes to downtown St. Pete); rent bicycles and scooters in downtown St. Pete; or take the Cross Bay Ferry between Tampa and St. Pete, thecrossbayferry.com*

NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA
Charleston
Savannah
Atlantic Ocean
Gulf of Mexico
FLORIDA
Tampa
Clearwater
St. Petersburg
Orlando
Miami
BAHAMAS

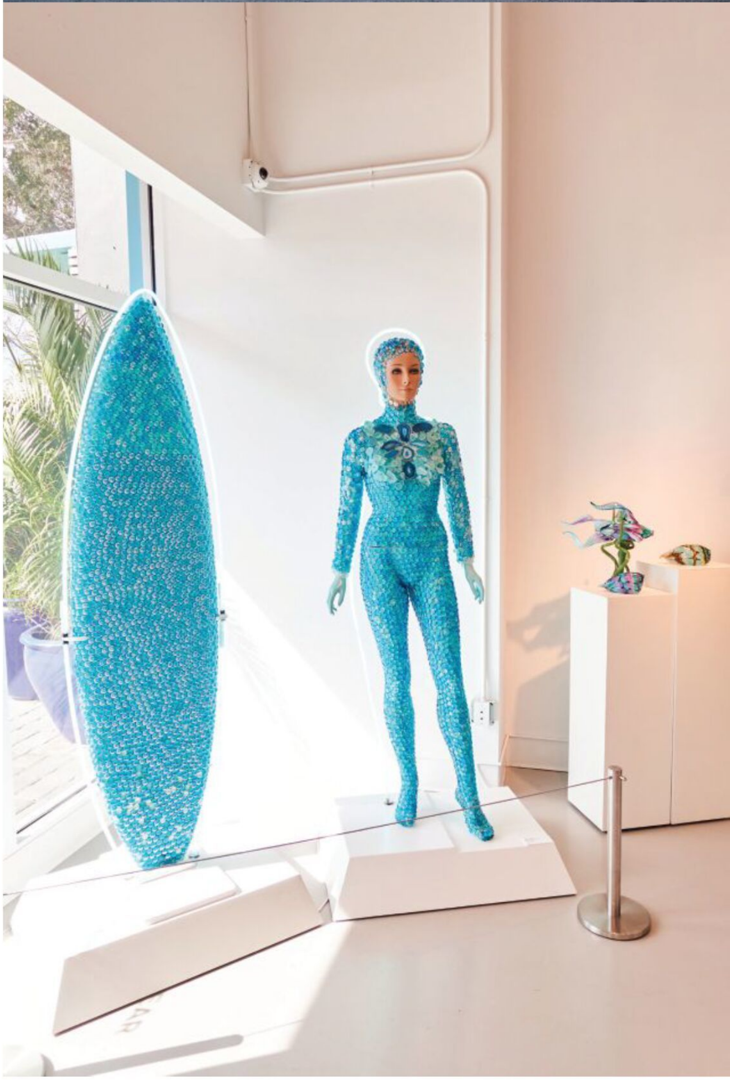


Exhibit Hopping: *Visitors can fill days with art in St. Petersburg. (Clockwise from top left) Museum of the American Arts & Crafts Movement, Museum of Fine Arts, the Imagine Museum of glass sculpture, and the Dalí Museum.*

Glass City: *Beaded sculptures by Trish Duggan, whose works are among the hundreds of dazzling glass pieces at the Imagine Museum in St. Petersburg; (top) the Museum of Fine Arts* parkland that extends over water for 26 acres, flanked by yacht basins full of boats. A visitor shuttle continually loops to the end and back. About halfway out, a yoga class stretches and bends under an installation by American fiber artist Janet Echelon, its billowing illuminated netting changing colors as night falls. Meanwhile, green-feathered wild parrots squawk and circle near massive, vine-draped banyan trees.

After sunset on nearby Central Avenue, everyone seems to be out strolling and people-watching. We tuck into front window seats at the urban-cool Italian restaurant Il Ritorno, where the view alternates between the parade of passersby in shorts and minidresses and the busy open kitchen. Chef-owner David Benstock, who grew up in St. Pete, returned after stints in Italy and New York. His menu includes interesting house-made pastas—mezzaluna "half moons" with short ribs, for one—along with cheese boards and seafood dishes, including charred octopus and hamachi crudo with yuzu fruit and pineapple. The restaurant's name is spelled in neon letters on one wall, and sauces are artfully swirled on plates—influences of the city's art are here, too. The chef says he often walks down Central for inspiration for his cooking and plating and that a favorite stop is Florida CraftArt, a nonprofit hub showcasing more than 200 Florida artists.

Art Walk

The sun's shining brightly the next morning—the city once claimed a world record for the longest stretch of sunny days at 768. A full day of art museum-hopping is easy to do in St. Pete. It's just a matter of choices—including the bay-facing Museum of Fine Art and the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Arts. Glass is a major part of the art world here, too, so much so that there's another nickname, the "Glass Coast," for this part of Florida—home to the permanent Chihuly Collection by master American glass sculptor Dale Chihuly at the Morean Arts Center and the largest collection of contemporary glass sculpture in the US at the aqua-blue Imagine Museum on Central Avenue.

Five Stories Gleaming: *The Museum of the American Arts & Crafts Movement (above and opposite, top left), with its swirling staircase, opened in St. Petersburg in 2021.*

About 500 miles southeast of Charleston and just across the bay from Tampa, it's a classic Florida destination that I'd heard has been evolving lately—still funky, but with a new vibrancy based on impressive cultural investments in the arts.

A Florida Classic: *Poolside at the nearly 14-acre, circa-1925 Vinoy Resort & Golf Club that's completing a major renovation.*

Just outside of the Dalí, a sailboat glides into the marina basin on a whisper of bay breeze. The boxy, three-story museum is wrapped in curving glass extensions. Inside, a steady stream of visitors flows through its sunlit atrium, and a staircase spirals upward, almost like the artist's wildly twisted mustache.

In the gallery rooms, visitors looking at original works talk of how they see movement. "It was moving, changing," a woman says in a French accent, about a painting of a fruit-laden table with folds in the white tablecloth. I look closer and see motion, too, as if the still life isn't still, but perpetually sliding forward. Large and small paintings and sculptures are on display, including portraits, still lifes, and a Picasso-esque vase from Dalí's early career before the turn to surrealism. Around the corner, there's an interactive life-size film of the artist talking. Press the screen to start, and it feels as if you're meeting his gaze as he describes and recommends the King Cole Bar, his favorite spot in New York in the 1960s and '70s.

Eye Candy: *Florida pinks and blues on a sunny morning inside Paradeco Coffee Roasters (above); in a city full of glass sculptures, a new, massive chandelier by artist Dale Chihuly hangs in the ballroom at the Vinoy Resort & Golf Club (left).*

Glass is such a major part of the art world in this part of Florida that there's another nickname, the "Glass Coast."

Our next stop is at the massive Museum of the American Arts & Crafts Movement, where the architecture itself is a work of art. Opened in 2021, it features another remarkable staircase, this one wider and gleaming in polished white stone. It's the centerpiece of the five-story building that displays lamps, tables, and cabinetry of the era as art pieces.

And in the early 20th-century grandeur of the "royal pink" bayside Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, we wander the wide, tiled halls with original cypress beams above. I peek into the ballroom to see the mammoth Dale Chihuly blown-glass chandelier that was commissioned for the resort's major renovation underway this year. The piece is a showstopper: Hanging in the center of the room and looking as delicate as a mass of balloons, yet weighty and elegant, too, the sculpture epitomizes St. Pete style.

Central Again

We keep returning to Central Avenue, the heart of the city. First, it's for dinner at Wild Child, which has a Caribbean vibe and serves up plenty of rum- and Mezcal-based cocktails with names like "Lost Weekend" and "Golden Eagle." The food is vibrant-colored, fun, and fresh—beet salad, ceviche with plantains fried in long strips, a flipped paella (so the crisped rice is on top), and grouper over coconut rice.

The next day at Casita Taqueria just down the street, we meet Jenee Priebe of the Shine St. Petersburg Mural Festival, an annual gathering in October. She explains how new murals are commissioned each year to add to the dozens already in place—nearly 150 since 2015. Tours are led year-round, adding life and energy to the blocks. The works aren't random graffiti, Priebe explains, but a major, city-endorsed attraction along and near Central Avenue—murals by local, regional, and international artists span sides of buildings and along the rear alleyways. It's been transformative for the city, she says. "People follow the art."

Tampa Finale

The return flight isn't until early evening, so

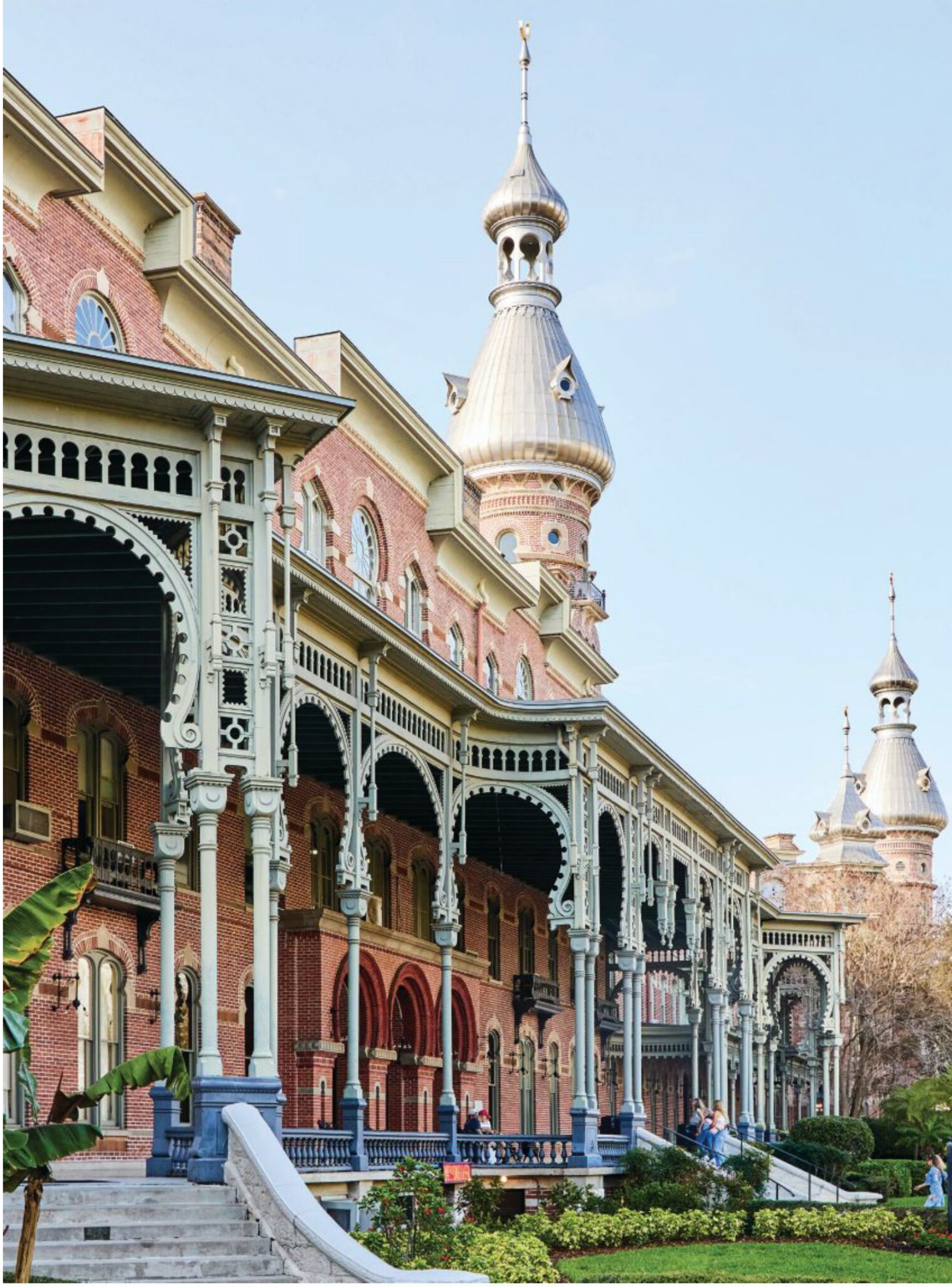
Central Avenue Flavors: *Fresh fruit and fish, tostadas, fried plantains, and Mexican and Caribbean-inspired cocktails bring color to the table at Wild Child in St. Petersburg.*

"I love that the works are the intersection of fine art and street art," says Jenee Priebe, executive director of the annual Shine St. Petersburg Mural Festival.

there's time for a fast dip into Tampa culture before heading to the airport. In the historic blocks of the Ybor City neighborhood, roosters stroll past café-goers, who come for food, music, and hand-rolled cigars. No high-rises here, but lines of two-story, wooden and brick buildings built by and for immigrants—mainly from Cuba, Spain, and Italy—who moved to Tampa in the late 1800s and early 1900s to work in cigar manufacturing.

At the Columbia Restaurant, open since 1905, we order a plate of mojito chicken and a Cuban sandwich on pressed, crusty bread that's sliced into a wedge. The tuxedo-wearing server explains that Flamenco dinner shows are held regularly in another of the 15 colorful dining rooms in this block-long landmark, owned by the same family since its founding and decorated with indoor fountain sculptures and Don Quixote paintings.

A few miles away, we stop for a closer look at the towering silver minarets and domes of the opulent, 1890s winter resort known as the Tampa Bay Hotel. The immense Gilded Age-era



Growing History: *A Tampa landmark that was formerly an opulent hotel, the Henry B. Plant Museum is now part of the University of Tampa and includes a lush botanical park overlooking the Hillsborough River and downtown Tampa.*

WEB EXTRA

Watch massive works of art being created during last year's Shine St. Petersburg Mural Festival at charlestonmag.com.

A TAMPA BAY GETAWAY

Stay

Cordova Inn: Circa-1921 boutique hotel in the downtown waterfront district. *253 2nd Ave. N, St. Petersburg; cordovainnstpete.com*

The Birchwood: Waterfront boutique inn with a rooftop bar. *340 Beach Dr. NE, St. Petersburg; thebirchwood.com*

The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club: Newly renovated, circa-1925 hotel with pool, spa, tennis, and restaurants. *501 5th Ave NE, St. Petersburg; marriott.com*

Eat

Café Gala: Spanish fare and bay views at the Dalí Museum. *1 Dalí Blvd., St. Petersburg; thedali.org/visit/store-cafe/cafe-gala*

Casita Taqueria: Authentic tacos with house-made corn tortillas, cold beer on the patio. *2663 Central Ave., St. Petersburg; casitatacos.com*

Columbia Restaurant: Historical landmark with Flamenco shows, sangria, Cuban sandwiches, and crab croquettes. *2117 E. 7th Ave., Ybor City, Tampa; columbiarestaurant.com*

Il Ritorno: Modern Italian with house-made pastas, cheese boards, and seafood. *449 Central Ave. N, St. Petersburg; ilritornodowntown.com*

Paradeco Coffee Roasters: Deco-inspired decor with single-origin roasts and smoothies. *111 2nd Ave NE, St. Petersburg; paradecocoffee.com*

Wild Child: Neighborhood bistro with a fiesta feel; tropical cocktails, seafood, and brunch. *2710 Central Ave., St. Petersburg; wildchildstpete.com*

Shop

Florida CraftArt: Fine craft art and mural tours.
501 Central Ave., St. Petersburg; floridacraftart.org

Imagine Museum store: Fine-art glass.
1901 Central Ave., St. Petersburg; imaginemuseum.com

Oxford Exchange: Books by Florida authors, John Derian porcelain, housewares, and gifts. *420 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa; oxfordexchange.com*

Sunni Spencer: Resortwear boutique at the Vinoy Resort & Golf Club.
501 5th Ave. NE, St. Petersburg; sunnispencer.com

Explore

Chihuly Collection: Large-scale installations by the renowned glass artist at the Morean Arts Center. *720 Central Ave St., Petersburg; moreanartscenter.org*

The Dalí Museum: *1 Dalí Blvd., St. Petersburg; thedali.org*

Henry B. Plant Park: Botanical gardens at former Gilded Age hotel.
401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa; plantmuseum.com

Museum of the American Arts & Crafts Movement: *355 4th St. N., St. Petersburg; museumaacm.org*

St. Pete Pier: 26 acres of public green space, art, food, and drink on Tampa Bay.
600 2nd Ave. NE, St. Petersburg; stpetepier.org

Plan Ahead

Shine St. Petersburg Mural Festival: See new murals by contemporary local, national, and international artists come to life from October 13-22, 2023; *stpeteartsalliance.org/shine-mural-festival/*

Tampa Time Travel: *Founded in 1866, the Ybor City Historic District is a National Historic Landmark. An amalgam of Cuban, Asian, and European immigrants, the neighborhood's original cigar factory buildings, Columbia Restaurant (est. 1905), live music venues, and storefronts are still intact, within a 10-mile drive of Tampa International Airport.*

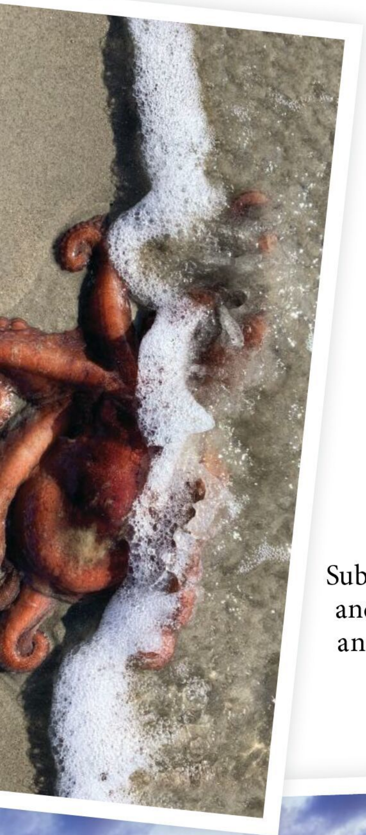
building is now a museum and the grounds are open as the city's largest public botanical gardens, part of the University of Tampa. Here and there, college students nap in hammocks attached to towering palm trees. On the opposite side of W. Kennedy Boulevard, we end this fast Florida getaway in the brick and marble hallways of the historic Oxford Exchange—originally built as horse stables for the resort, and now an elegant restaurant, bookstore, and all-day venue for beverages. My order before we go? An iced tea please, the one named Florida Orange Blossom. C

CALL FOR ENTRIES!

DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2023

charleston magazine's
Images *of* Charleston
PHOTO CONTEST!

SCAN TO ENTER!



Have a photo that is "So Charleston"?

Submit up to five images depicting our fair city (and the beaches, countryside, and burbs) and her people. All photos will be reviewed by a panel of experts, and we'll feature the top picks in our August 2023 issue. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners in both amateur and professional categories.

TO ENTER AND SEE A COMPLETE LIST OF GUIDELINES, VISIT CHARLESTONMAG.COM/PHOTO_CONTEST.

ENTRY DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2023

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (SHEM CREEK) JUUSTIN FALK, (SURFER & KID) OWEN JACKSON, (STREET) KEVIN HOLLIDAY, (DOG) DOUG BARNARD, (LADY) FALLON DEVINE, (MARSH) DEREK PAULSEN, & (OCTOPUS) JACKIE LEVESQUE

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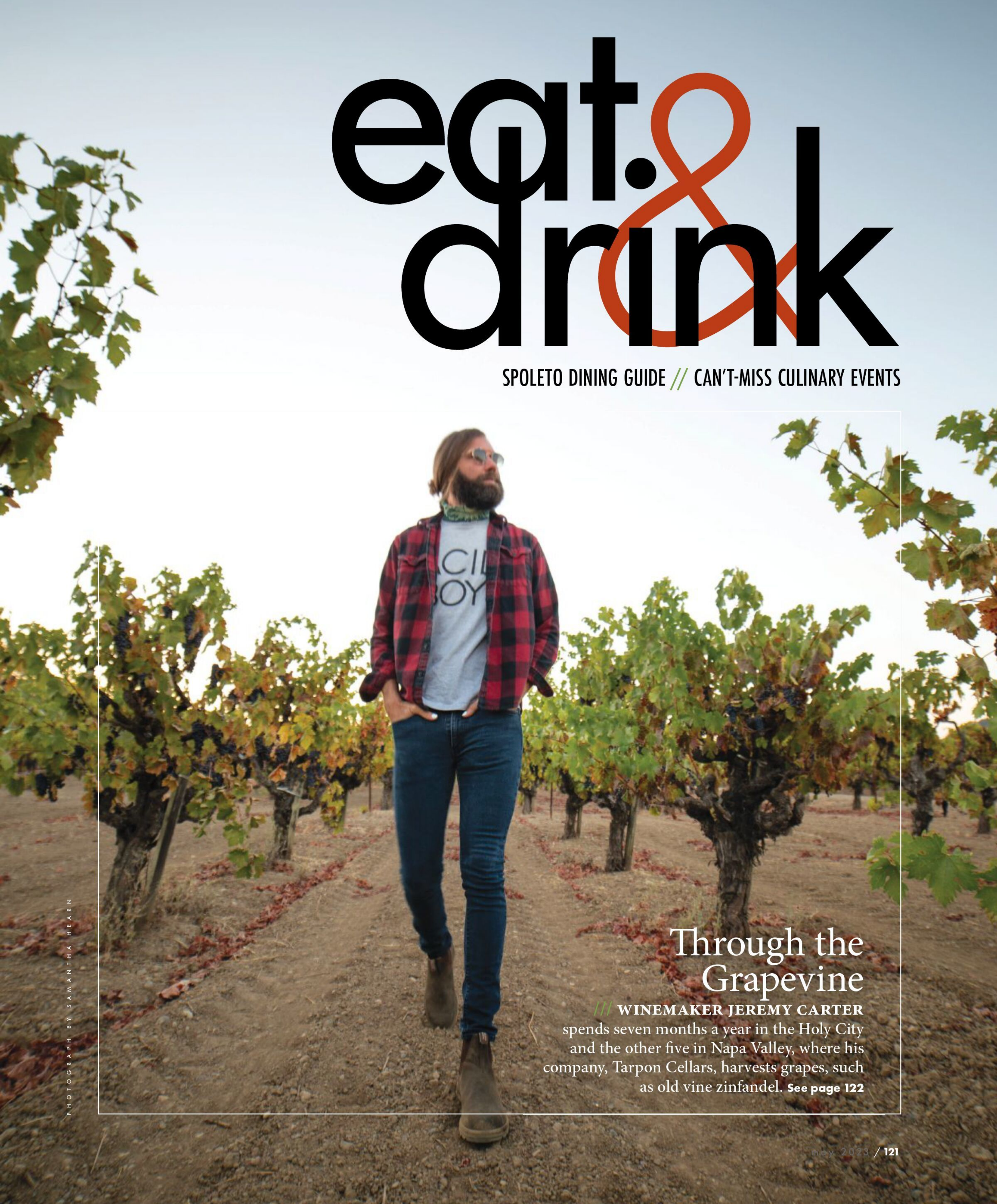


PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMANTHA HEARN

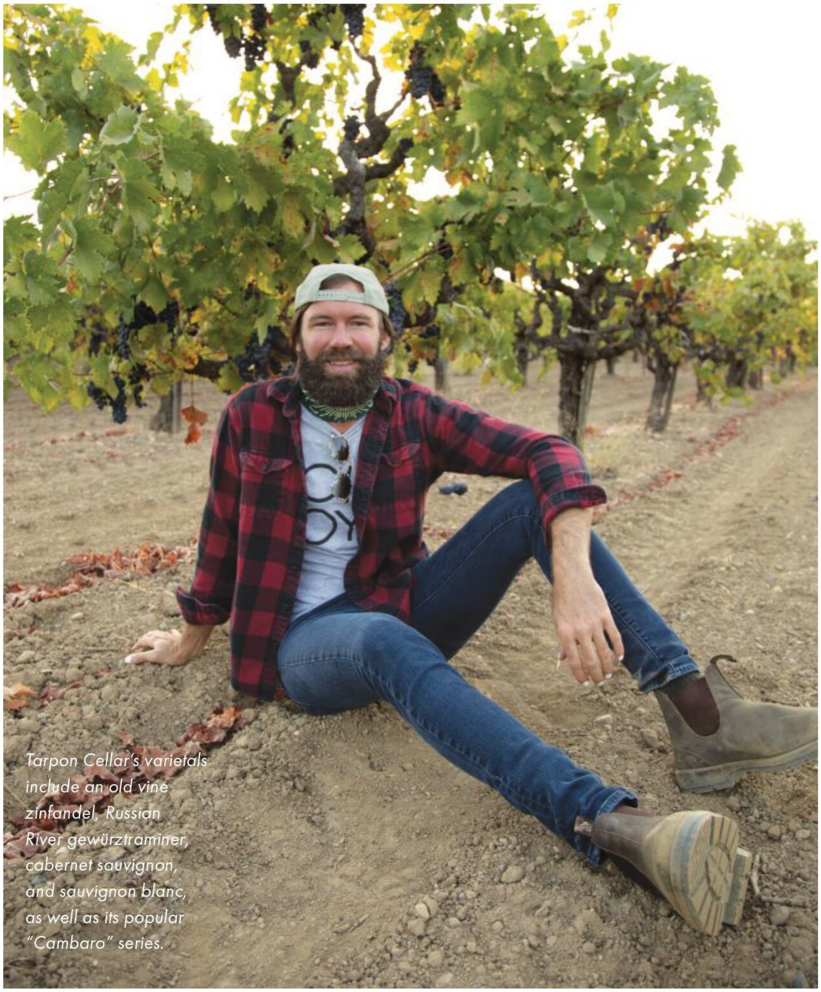
Through the Grapevine

/// **WINEMAKER JEREMY CARTER** spends seven months a year in the Holy City and the other five in Napa Valley, where his company, Tarpon Cellars, harvests grapes, such as old vine zinfandel. **See page 122**

15 MINUTES WITH:

JEREMY CARTER

Meet the Holy City transplant whose Tarpon Cellars produces single-vineyard, minimal-intervention wines in Napa Valley



Tarpon Cellar's varietals include an old vine zinfandel, Russian River gewürztraminer, cabernet sauvignon, and sauvignon blanc, as well as its popular "Cambaro" series.

CM: How did you get into wine?

JC: One night toward the end of college, I tried this bottle of wine that felt like going to a museum and seeing a piece of art that moves you. I started applying to wine bars and restaurants, and in 2007, I got an internship with William Harrison Vineyards in Napa Valley. I thought it would be a hospitality position with lots of sipping wine in the AC. And they were like, "No, this is a harvest internship. You'll be in the field." It was much harder than anticipated, but I loved working with my hands. After that, I studied at UC Davis, which has a great wine-making program, to learn all I could and worked at multiple wineries until founding Tarpon Cellars in 2017.

CM: What brought you from Wine Country to the Holy City?

JC: I hadn't visited Charleston for a few years when I came to check out places that started carrying our wine, and after 48 hours, I knew this was where I wanted to be. We do so much on the East Coast, I found it made sense to have a home base in the South. I grew up outside of Atlanta and went to college in Tallahassee, so it really felt like coming home. It ends up being about five months a year in Napa for bottling and harvest, with the other seven spent in Charleston. The hospitality community here is different than

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (JEREMY CARTER) SAMANTHA HEARN & COURTESY OF (5) THE BUSINESSES

(FAVORITE THINGS)

➤ Stretch It Out: "The Works downtown is my go-to yoga spot. The instructors are amazing and so supportive."

➤ Corner Store: "The downtown Island Provisions is two blocks from my apartment, and I can't get enough of their coffee."

➤ Good Eats: "I love everything about Basic Kitchen; they have interesting plant-based dishes and make my favorite mocktails in town."

➤ Dinner & A Show: "The Royal American is truly a local gem, and the kitchen is open until 1 a.m. with extremely underrated food."

➤ Craveworthy Catch: "Chubby Fish is exactly the type of food I constantly crave: acid-driven, seafood-based, and creative."

anywhere I've been a part of. It really feels like chefs, mixologists, and restaurateurs all support each other.

CM: What makes your wine-making style "minimal intervention?"
JC: Most of our grapes come from a certified sustainable, fifth-generation family farm in Clarksburg, about an hour away from Napa, where our winery is located. We let them speak for themselves by not filtering anything or using additives. The result is high acid, low alcohol, bone dry, zero sugar, for a taste that's really lean, crisp, and bright. We're lucky in that we get to work with different grapes from the same vineyard and can pick the best representation of the year. Thematically, our wines will be similar, but I love when we encounter a new aromatic quality.

CM: How do you implement sustainable practices into your business?
JC: On the environmental side, we work with a company that uses 100-percent recycled glass. That goes a long way in reducing our carbon footprint. There's also the social impact, which is the most rewarding for me. We dedicate a portion of sales from different wine series to nonprofits across the country, such as Oyster South and Charleston Waterkeeper. Making wine is fun, but it's really cool to help support people that are doing the important work.

CM: Where can folks buy your wine?
JC: Locally, our wine is served at Chubby Fish, Chasing Sage, and Post House. On the retail side, Graft has been great, as well as Island Provisions.

CM: So what's next?
JC: Pretty soon, we'll be releasing a skin-contact gewürztraminer and a pet nat, our first sparkling wine. Later this summer, we are also introducing a separate sparkling wine series in cans. *—Holly Roberts*

Web EXTRAS **Beyond the Label:** Pair your glass of wine with a curated Spotify playlist from Tarpon Cellar at **charlestonmag.com**.

charleston magazine's

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Emerging Artist Competition
Call for Entries

Are you an undiscovered artist living in Charleston, Berkeley, or Dorchester county? Submit your work today for a chance to be featured in our September 2023 issue and be part of a special exhibition at Redux Contemporary Art Center.

Deadline for Submissions: April 30, 2023

Enter here!
Scan the code to learn more.

Presented in conjunction with
Charleston Arts Festival
REDUX Contemporary Art Center

charlestonmag.com/UnderTheRadar2023

Dinner & A Show

(Clockwise from left) The caviar bar at Zero George; on the half-shell at Delaney Oyster House; Brasserie La Banque's steak frites; The Establishment's dining room; oysters and shrimp cocktail at The Quinte

Dining out is an art form during Spoleto Festival USA. Restaurants fill up with patrons looking for a quick bite before and after performances. Here's our guide to great eats within a few minutes walk of the downtown venues. Hint: make reservations early and give yourself enough time to enjoy dinner and get to the show—without having to park twice

—Stephanie Barna

Symbols:
- Ⓑ **Breakfast**
- Ⓛ **Lunch**
- Ⓓ **Dinner**
- BR **Brunch**
- 🚗 **Street Parking**
- 🅿 **Parking Garage**
- $P **Paid Lot Parking**

THE CISTERN

(66 George St.)

MUSE RESTAURANT & WINE BAR: 5-MINUTE WALK

A Mediterranean menu and an extensive list of wines by the glass make this an ideal spot for a light preshow dinner. Dine outside or grab a seat at the bar, where you'll likely be sitting near other festivalgoers happy to give their take on the latest performance.

82 Society St., charlestonmuse.com
🚗 $P Ⓓ *(5-10 p.m.)*

THE QUINTE: 3-MINUTE WALK

This small, sultry oyster bar goes big on the details. Indulge in a seafood tower and linger over a Femme Fatale cocktail or two before enjoying live jazz under the oaks.

36 George St., thequinte.com
$P *(George Street lot)* 🅿 *(St. Philip)*
Ⓛ *(11 a.m.-3 p.m.)* Ⓓ *(5-10 p.m.)*

GAILLARD CENTER

(95 Calhoun St.)

THE CAVIAR BAR AT ZERO GEORGE: 1-MINUTE WALK

Reserve your spot at the eight-seat Caviar Bar at Zero George. At each seating (6 and 6:30 p.m.), guests are treated to a half ounce of Regiis Ova caviar accompanied by crème fraiche, brioche, soft egg, and potato chips. It's a one-minute walk to the Gaillard, so if you decide to order from the á la carte menu (try the Wagyu katsu sandwich), you'll still have ample time to make it to the show.

0 George St., zerorestaurantcharleston.com
🅿 *(33 Alexander St.)*

DELANEY OYSTER HOUSE: 3-MINUTE WALK

With early dinner hours, this is a prime spot for seafood in a classic Charleston setting. A couple of small plates—she-crab gnocchi, spicy shrimp ajillo—paired with a signature martini will get you in the right mood for a night of opera or dance at the Gaillard.

115 Calhoun St., delaneyoysterhouse.com
🅿 *(33 Alexander St.)*
Ⓓ *(opens 4:30 p.m.)* Ⓛ *(weekend)*

DOCK STREET THEATRE

(135 Church St.)

THE ESTABLISHMENT: 3-MINUTE WALK

With a spacious dining room and bar seating, The Establishment is a great option before or after the lively cabaret performance *Only an Octave Apart* at the Dock Street. The menu changes daily and highlights fresh seafood, with plenty of choices for landlubbers.

28 Broad St., establishmentchs.com
🚗 🅿 *(25 Priouleau St.)* Ⓓ *(opens 5 p.m.)*

GAULART & MALICLET: 5-MINUTE WALK

Daytime chamber music concerts at the Dock Street are a beloved Spoleto tradition. Before the morning performance, indulge in a French press coffee and a flaky croissant, or treat yourself to a cheese and charcuterie board in the afternoon. It's fast and French with a convivial, artistic vibe.

98 Broad St., fastandfrenchcharleston.com
🚗 🅿 *(84 Queen St.)*
Ⓑ Ⓛ Ⓓ *(open 8 a.m.-8 p.m.)*

QUEEN STREET PLAYHOUSE

(20 Queen St.)

BRASSERIE LA BANQUE: 4-MINUTE WALK

Arrive early enough for a multicourse meal of caviar, escargot, and coq au vin or pop in after the show for a late-night bite in the downstairs Bar Vauté.

1 Broad St., brasserielabanque.com
🚗 🅿 *(25 Prioleau St.)*
Ⓓ *(open 5-11 p.m.)*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (DELANEY OYSTER HOUSE & BRASSERIE LA BANQUE) ANDREW CEBULKA, (THE QUINTE) MATTHEW WILLIAMS & COURTESY OF (ZERO GEORGE & THE ESTABLISHMENT) THE RESTAURANTS

(From left) The welcoming bar at Vivian Howard's Lenoir; cauliflower "wings" at Basic Kitchen, complete with celery, blue cheese, and hot sauce

(Bottom left) Charleston Grill has a new chef and updated look for its dining room. (Left) Forget waffles, SNOB pairs fried chicken with French toast.

SLIGHTLY NORTH OF BROAD: 4-MINUTE WALK

Whether it's lunch, dinner, or a late afternoon snack at the bar, SNOB (an OG among the East Bay eateries) has been accommodating Spoleto-goers tight schedules for three decades.
102 E. Bay St., snobcharleston.com
🚗 🅿 ***(1 Cumberland St.)***
Ⓛ Ⓓ ***(open daily 11:30 a.m.)***
BR ***(Sundays 10:30 a.m.)***

FESTIVAL HALL

(56 Beaufain St.)

CHARLESTON GRILL: 4-MINUTE WALK

Even if you're short on time, you can luxuriate in plates of truffle caviar and lobster salad with a glass of bubbles. Most nights feature live jazz in the lounge to whet your appetite for an evening of culture.
224 King St., charlestonplace.com
🅿 ***(211 King St.)*** Ⓓ ***(opens 5:30 p.m.)***

LE FARFALLE: 2-MINUTE WALK

Make a reservation for the dining room or try your luck as a walk-in for outdoor dining or open seats at the bar. Le Farfalle's setting is well-suited for snacking on focaccia and sipping Negronis. If you have time for a full meal, order some pasta and one of the steakhouse-style meats (veal chops, lamb chops, filets).
15 Beaufain St., lefarfallecharleston.com
🅿 ***(211 King St.)*** Ⓓ ***(open 5 p.m.)***

SOTTILE THEATRE

(44 George St.)

LENOIR: 4-MINUTE WALK

Chef Vivian Howard's elevated Southern fare includes catfish, pork chops, and pink-eye peas and rice for a glorious preshow supper. Have an early performance? Her neighboring coffee shop Handy & Hot is open until 3:30 p.m., serving biscuits, savory hand pies, salads, and sandwiches.
68 Wentworth St., dineatlenoir.com
$P ***(31 George St. lot)*** 🅿 ***(69 Wentworth St.)***
Ⓓ ***(5 p.m., bar opens at 4 p.m.)***

BASIC KITCHEN: 4-MINUTE WALK

Basic Kitchen keeps it simple and light, serving lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch. It's best for a predinner show since it closes at 9 p.m., but you'll be charmed by the creative menu, with dishes like cauliflower hot "wings" and corn "ribs," as well as hanger steaks, chicken schnitzel, and grass-fed burgers.
82 Wentworth St., basickitchen.com
🅿 ***(211 King St.)*** Ⓛ ***(11 a.m.-3 p.m.)***
Ⓓ ***(5-9 p.m.)***

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

(405 King St.)

STELLA'S: 2-MINUTE WALK

The premier choral performance at this downtown church promises to be a soul-stirring event. Afterward, head to Stella's to share meze plates and Greek fare, from *pastichio* to leg of lamb.
114. St. Philip St., stellascharleston.com
🅿 ***(Marion Square garage, 399 King St.)***
Ⓛ ***(11 a.m.-3 p.m.)*** Ⓓ ***(5-10 p.m.)***

GABRIELLE: 2-MINUTE WALK

Duck inside Hotel Bennett for a snack or meal any time of the day. The bar and outdoor plaza overlooking Marion Square has a special lounge menu with appetizers like truffle fries, crab toast, and lobster gyoza.
404 King St., hotelbennett.com
🅿 ***(Marion Square garage, 399 King St.)***
Ⓑ Ⓛ Ⓓ ***(open 7 a.m.-11 p.m.)***

(From left) Most know Le Farfalle for primo pasta, but its chophouse cuts never disappoint; Gabrielle's filet with its signature steak sauce. (Above) A selection of meze, including grilled octopus, at Stella's is ideal for sharing a light bite before or after a show.

PHOTOGRAPH BY (CHARLESTON GRILL) CAMERON WILDER, (SNOB & GABRIELLE) ANDREW CEBULKA, (LENOIR) BAXTER MILLER, (BASIC KITCHEN) KIRK ROBERT, (LE FARFALLE) ANDREW WALKER & COURTESY OF (STELLA'S) THE RESTAURANT

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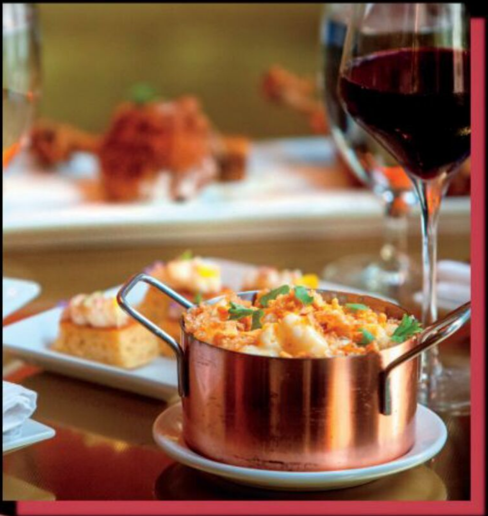

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(dining guide)

CHARLESTON PENINSULA

39 RUE DE JEAN

A short stroll down John Street from King, find a favorite spot for casual dining. This brasserie is touted for its menu française, especially the steak frites, escargot, onion soup, and mussels (in six choices of broth). *(MS) 39 John St., (843) 722-8881, holycityhospitality.com. $$-$$$; L, D, & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ ☂

167 RAW OYSTER BAR

This riff on a New England-style oyster eatery has the expected stellar raw bar, but expanded its menu after moving to bigger quarters. Faves include lobster rolls and tacos, seafood po' boys, and a mean ceviche. First come, first served, it's open from 11 to 11, seven days a week. *(MS) 193 King St., (843) 579-4997, 167raw.com. $$$-$$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ☾ ☂

167 SUSHI BAR

Grab one of the 24 seats at the original 167 on East Bay to sip on sake, beer, or wine while noshing on sushi and snacks. Mix your selection of nigiri, and *futomaki* with an intriguing array of *baos*, rice dishes, seaweed salad, and osetra caviar. *(MS) 289 East Bay St., (843) 625-3031, 167raw.com. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ☾ ☂

AMEN STREET FISH & RAW BAR

At this seafood house with an easy spirit and slightly nostalgic air, enjoy the raw bar selection, then add the must-have shrimp corn dogs, crab cakes, and shrimp and grits. *(MS) 205 East Bay St., (843) 853-8600, amenstreet.com. $$-$$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ ☂

ANSON

Across from the City Market, Anson greets diners with a stunning black-and-white dining room, accented with brilliant red. It's famous for its use of Lowcountry ingredients—and the whole crispy flounder with apricot shallot sauce. *(MS) 12 Anson St., (843) 577-0551, ansonrestaurant.com. $$-$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿

BABAS ON CANNON

Co-owners Edward Crouse and Marie Stitt run this chic, Euro-style neighborhood café. In the morning, enjoy the famous tall quiche with a cappuccino on the restaurant's sidewalk seats. Cruise by later for a glass of wine from the beautifully curated list, accompanied by a pickled shrimp salad or grilled cheese with wild mushrooms. *(MS) 11 Cannon St. (843) 284-6260, babasoncannon.com. $-$$$; B, L, D.* 🍸 ♿ ☂

BAKER & BREWER

Family-friendly like its Park Circle forefather, EVO's downtown outpost with Holy City Brewing offers a pleasingly versatile menu of salads, such as the Farmers; fat sammies, like the hot roast beef; and the Neapolitan-style wood-fired pizzas EVO is famous for—plus desserts and breads from the bakery and brews made on-site. *(MS) 94 Stuart St., (843) 297-8233, bakerandbrewer.com. $$-$$$; L, D, Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ ☂ Ⓟ

BAR 167

With a whitewashed exterior offset by cerulean blue, the look and feel of this 167 offshoot is modern Mykonos. The cocktail list is expansive, including gin and tonics on tap and a wine list that leans Mediterranean. While the food menu is more limited, it delivers on a few of those super fresh seafood dishes the restaurant group is known for, like the seared scallops with smoked trout roe. *(ML) 5 Fulton St., (843) 253-0300, 167raw.com. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ☾ ☂

BARSA TAPAS, LOUNGE, & BAR

Guests at this Upper King Street tapas bar enjoy a selection of small plates inspired by traditional Spanish cuisine. Perfect for an early dinner or late-night graze, it offers shareable dishes such as dates with Serrano ham and manchego cheese, spicy lamb meatballs, deftly fried calamari, or the pièce de résistance, paella. *(MS) 630 King St., (843) 577-5393, barsacharleston.com. $$-$$$; L, D, Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ ☂ Ⓟ

BASIC KITCHEN

Nab a sunlit corner at this clean-eats haven and start with fresh-pressed green juice or a white Negroni. Then dig into the tempura-fried cauliflower wings with cashew ranch. The veggie-packed Basic Bowl is bright on the eyes and palate, and the Naughty Burger is 100-percent grass-fed beef. The goal: food that leaves you nourished, with energy to burn. *(MS) 82 Wentworth St., (843) 789-4568, basickitchen.com. $-$$$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ ☂

BAY STREET BIERGARTEN

"Bavarian inspired, Southern made" is the motto at this German-style beer bar. Enjoy brats or the cheese spaetzle at one of the tables outfitted with self-serve taps. A pint wall offers taste tests of new brews, while an outdoor biergarten offers a menu of hearty eats to go with your pints. *(MS) 549 East Bay St., (843) 266-2437, baystreetbiergarten.com. $$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ☾ ♿ ☂ Ⓟ

BEECH

Perfect for a power-up, this counter-service spot offers fresh, fast, and healthy food made from chicken, fruit, fish, rice, and vegetables. Try the açaí-based Delecta Bowl, or choose from an abundant array of poke bowls, smoothies, and juices. Bulk up with bagels, wraps, and salads. *(MS) 315 King St., (843) 212-5414, beechrestaurants.com. $-$$; B, L, D.* ♿

charleston magazine

The Dining Guide is a service to our readers and is organized geographically. Different areas are featured in each issue. Charleston *accepts no advertising or other considerations in exchange for a listing, and visits by our reviewers are anonymous. The reviewer's initials follow each listing. Unless noted, all restaurants listed in this guide accept major credit cards.*

Prices:
Average price of a dinner entrée
(lunch, if dinner isn't served):
Under $10 = $
$10-$15 = $$
$16-$25 = $$$
$25+ = $$$$

Symbols:
Breakfast = B
Lunch = L
Dinner = D
Brunch = BR
NEW! New or updated listing
🍸 Full bar
☾ Late night dining (after 10 p.m.)
Ⓟ Parking
♿ Wheelchair accessible
☂ Outdoor seating
Ⓥ Valet parking

BERKELEY'S

At this casual eatery on upper Rutledge Avenue, crispy chicken parm gets topped with "grandma" sauce and a blanket of mozzarella, while cheesesteaks are piled with shaved rib eye, Duke's, and house-made cheese whiz. Make dessert a cup of local Frigid Bits ice cream (featuring rotating flavors like salted honey baklava, apple molasses, and blackberry jam biscuit.) *(HR) 624 1/2 Rutledge Ave., (843) 501-7779, eatatberkeleys.com. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🌳

BIG BAD BREAKFAST

This Lowcountry outpost of James Beard Award-winning chef John Currence's Southern diner chain slings all things brekkie seven days a week. The hash cakes, BLT omelet with zesty tomato gravy, or anything Cajun-ish—such as the boldly spiced andouille or the fried oyster and shrimp po' boy—are standouts. *(MS) 456 Meeting St., (843) 459-1800, bigbadbreakfast.com. $-$$; B, L.* ♿ 🍸 Ⓟ 🌳

{MAY 12-14}
GREEK FESTIVAL

Is there a better way to celebrate Mother's Day weekend than dancing to Greek music, sipping assyrtiko, and feasting on dolmades and gyros? The 52nd Anniversary Greek Festival at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity has all that and more, including dance performances, church tours, and pastries galore. Plus, there's free parking and shuttle service from 19 Hagood Avenue. *30 Race St. Friday-Sunday, times vary. $5; seniors & students, $3; children under 12, free. charlestongreekfestival.com*

BIG GUN BURGER SHOP

If you like your burger full of surprises (say, with peach jalapeño mustard or fried kale), Big Gun's your place. At this hole-in-the-wall, fan favorites are happy hour and the "towering inferno burger" with beef and pulled pork, barbecue sauce, queso fresco, and habanero slaw. *(MS) 137 Calhoun St., (843) 789-3821, bigguncharleston.com. $-$$; D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ☾ ♿

BISTRO A VIN

This petite bistro boasts elegant wood and brick interiors and a satisfying menu of small French bites. Think smoked salmon and blinis or duck foie gras mousse. Fill up the DIY fromage and charcuterie boards with items like soft Bûcheron goat cheese, Spanish manchego, garlicky sausage, and pork pâté. *(MS) 40 Archdale St., (843) 974-4441, bistroavin.com. $-$$$; D.* 🍸 🌳 Ⓟ

BISTRONOMY BY NICO

Chef Nico Romo carries on the convivial spirit and some of the French pan-Asian flavors from his former King Street staple Fish at this sleek and sexy spot on Spring Street. Settle in for your new favorite happy hour and stay for bistro classics such as steak frites, curry crab soup, and, of course, that tuna tartare with the shrimp chips you so fondly remember. *(SB) 64 Spring St., (843) 410-6221, bistronomybynico.com. $$$$; D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 🌳 ♿

BODEGA

Taking inspiration from the New York bodegas of his childhood, executive chef Alec Gropman adds a twist to old-school breakfast sammies (think pulled pork and fried green tomatoes)—plus deli classics and salads—at this Ann Street spot. Here's where to indulge in brunch-worthy craft cocktails, including the "Bodega Bloody" served with candied bacon. *(HR) 23 Ann St., (843) 297-4772, bodegachs.com. $$; B, L, D.* 🍸 ♿ ☾ 🌳

BLIND TIGER PUB

Seven years ago, new owners renovated the Broad Street pub and its historic courtyard and offered a fresh menu, boasting smoked wings, avocado toast with pickled shrimp, a hearty duck sandwich, and a pork cracklins pimiento cheese combo. Brunch options range from decadent bananas Foster waffles to shrimp and grits with sherry cream sauce. *(MS) 36-38 Broad St., (843) 872-6700, blindtigerchs.com. $$-$$$; B, L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 🌳 Ⓥ ♿ ☾

BRASSERIE LA BANQUE

Head to this former bank building on Broad Street for brasserie fare in a convivial setting. The classics are on the menu—think chilled oysters, onion soup, and steak frites—as well as elevated dishes, including the much-touted torchon de foie gras, *poulet rouge*, and gnocchi Parisienne. *(DS) 1 Broad St., (843) 779-1800, brasserielabanque.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 Ⓥ

BURWELL'S STONEFIRE GRILL

This upmarket steak house offers prime meats cooked on a custom-built 1,400-degree, wood-fired grill or 700-degree lava stone, plus plenty of succulent shrimp, scallops, and crab cakes. And you must leave room for one of the decadent desserts. *(MS) 14 N. Market St., (843) 737-8700, burwellscharleston.com. $-$$$$; D.* ☾ 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ

BUTCHER & BEE

First-timers should fill up on *meze*, the small sharing plates, making sure to include the whipped feta with fermented honey and fresh pita. Middle Eastern spices and seasonal vegetables reign, bringing saffron tomato sauce and tahini to the shakshuka and blistered cherry tomatoes, turmeric *labneh*, and salsa *macha* to the roasted chicken. *(MS) 1085 Morrison Dr., (843) 619-0202, butcherandbee.com. $$-$$$; B, L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ 🍸

CALLIE'S HOT LITTLE BISCUIT

Pop into this cheerful counter-service café (which has another location in the City Market) for a variety of freshly baked handmade biscuits, made with buttermilk and country ham, cinnamon, cheese, or chives. Or build biscuit sammies and bowls with an array of tasty fillings. Bonus: there's also a gluten-free option. *(MS) 476½ King St., (843) 737-5159, calliesbiscuits.com. $; B, L.*

CAVIAR & BANANAS

This downtown spot provides endless possibilities for an easygoing lunch or breakfast on the run. The sophisticated sandwich and salad options, panoply of prepared foods, and espresso bar add to the benefits. *(MS) 51 George St., (843) 577-7757, caviarandbananas.com. $-$$; B, L, Sat. & Sun. BR.* ♿ 🌳

CHARLESTON GRILL

Charleston Grill executive chef Suzy Castelloe crafts a decadent bill of fare in this posh, intimate venue with impeccable service and stellar wine list. Don't miss the crab cakes, fish a la plancha, crispy sweetbreads, or Colorado venison. Or indulge in a foie gras and prime beef tenderloin for a special night out. *(MS) Charleston Place Hotel, 224 King St., (843) 577-4522, charlestongrill.com. $$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ Ⓥ

CHASING SAGE

A block from the Crosstown, this restaurant feels like anything but rush hour, and instead a watercolor study on the bounty of the Lowcountry, from field to fishing lines. The fresh and well-fashioned menu shifts daily (keep an eye out for the tilefish and 48-hour short rib) and includes an array of vegetables grown on the family farm in Colleton County. *(SB) 267 Rutledge Ave., (854) 444-3402, chasingsagerestaurant.com. $$$; D.* ♿ 🌳

CHEZ NOUS

At the petite Chez Nous, chef Jill Mathias offers diners an impressive wine list and picture-worthy seasonal French-inspired fare. In fact, the only way to browse their daily changing menu in advance is via the restaurant's Instagram feed, where it's posted alongside photos of many elegantly composed dishes at this cozy Elliotborough gem. *(MS) 6 Payne Ct., (843) 579-3060, cheznouschs.com. $$$-$$$$; L, D, & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

CHUBBY FISH

Chef James London's ever-changing menu is driven by the local, seasonal availability of the catch. The raw bar and creative plates, such as smoked wreckfish curry and chili garlic shrimp, are accompanied by a nightly whole fish offering. There's a half chicken for the landlubbers, and don't miss the Life Raft Treats ice cream novelties for dessert. *(MS) 252 Coming St., (854) 222-3949, chubbyfishcharleston.com. $$-$$$; D.* 🍸

CHURCH & UNION

Formerly known as 5Church, this eatery set in a cavernous sanctuary brings a contemporary

PHOTOGRAPH BY KIKI HILYER

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THE PORTER ROOM

edge to Market Street. Standouts on chef Jamie Lynch's menu include the ahi tuna poke bowl with Carolina Gold rice, braided ravioli stuffed with Italian sausage, and daily fresh catch set on a bed of Anson Mills farro. *(MS) 32 N. Market St., (843) 937-8666, 5churchcharleston.com. $$-$$$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿

CIRCA 1886

In the carriage house of the Wentworth Mansion, the romantic Circa 1886 boasts modern cuisine fused with the history of South Carolina foodways. Chef Marc Collins' Southern grilled cheese is elevated with paddlefish caviar, "Surryano" ham, and pimento cheese mousse. Blue corn grits, copper carrots, Brussels sprouts, and a vanilla bean vinaigrette accompany his sea scallops. *(MS) 149 Wentworth St., (843) 853-7828, circa1886.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

CITRUS CLUB

For panoramic views and tropical tipples, head to this pastel penthouse oasis. Expect to find a custom-built coral backbar and matching frozen drink machine, Marcona almond-dusted mai tais, plus beer and wine for the less adventurous. The smoky-spiced calypso chips, crab dip, and Dewberry smash burger are sure to assuage your hunger. *(MS) 334 Meeting St., (843) 872-9063, thedewberrycharleston.com. $$$-$$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌳

COAST BAR & GRILL

Take an instant vacation in this high-style fish camp with a laid-back feel. While there's surf and turf, including pork loin and jerk half chicken, COAST is about seafood—roasted, grilled, fried, steamed, and on the half-shell—from Baja fish tacos to grilled spicy adobo shrimp with bacon cheese grits. *(MS) 39-D John St., (843) 722-8838, holycityhospitality.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 ☾

CONTAINER BAR

This North Central bar was cleverly crafted from three shipping containers and hosts a variety of food trucks, with lineups updated daily online. "Happenings" include trivia nights and plenty of televised sports. *(MS) 2130 Mount Pleasant St., (843) 793-1480, containerbarchs.com. $-$$; D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 ☾ Ⓟ

CRU CAFÉ

A charming Charleston single draws fans to this spot north of the City Market for chef John Zucker's gourmet comfort food. Duck confit salad, shrimp BLT on sourdough, and the famous four-cheese macaroni are particularly crave-worthy options on an eclectic menu. *(MS) 18 Pinckney St., (843) 534-2434, crucafe.com. $$-$$$$; L, D.* 🌳

THE DAILY

A sister of Butcher & Bee, this colorful little café serves up multiple coffees, cold-pressed juices, and smoothies to sip solo or with bowls, wraps, and breakfast sandwiches. Fresh, flavorful breads, pastries, sandwiches, and salads are ready to eat in or grab to go. *(MS) 135 Meeting St., (843) 779-0550, shopthedaily.com. $-$$; B, L.* ♿ 🍸 🌳

D'ALLESANDRO'S PIZZA

Learning from their father, Nick and Ben D'Allesandro serve what they know best: hand-tossed pizza. The parlor in Cannonborough-Elliotborough has staked a claim as a favorite among CofC students and other neighborhood residents. *(MS) 229 St. Philip St., (843) 853-6337, dalspizza.com. $-$$$; L, D.* ♿ ☾

THE DARLING OYSTER BAR

Diners dig this casual spot on Upper King for its versatile seafaring menu. Bivalve lovers savor the raw bar filled with "merroir" subtleties. Dinner brings clam strips, crab cakes, and fry baskets, but also fried chicken. Don't miss the crab cake benedict at brunch, a house specialty. *(MS) 513 King St., (843) 641-0821, thedarling.com. $$$-$$$$; D & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿

DELANEY OYSTER HOUSE

A historical single across from Marion Square houses this chic, seafood-centric restaurant. Try impressive dishes such as the grilled Spanish octopus or spicy snapper ceviche with chili crisp and puffed rice. More traditional but equally delicious are the crispy fish or oyster platter and the shrimp roll sourced straight off the trawlers at Tarvin Seafood. *(MS) 115 Calhoun St., (843) 594-0099, delaneyoysterhouse.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* ♿ 🍸 Ⓟ

DOAR BROS.

This petite Meeting Street bar offers a selection of palate-teasing bites, but cocktails shine brightest. Snacks include tufts of burrata, marinated tinned Spanish mussels, and caviar service. Doar Bros. is perfect for a pre-dinner cocktail, an affogato for dessert, or a Negroni nightcap. *(MS) 225 Meeting St., doarbros.com. $-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ ☾ 🌳

EDMUND'S OAST RESTAURANT & BREWPUB

With a wide daily selection of their own beers on tap, you're sure to find your fancy. On the food side, executive chef Bob Cook serves up his famous cheeseburgers, pickled shrimp, charcuterie boards, and fried chicken dinners in five flavors. Globally influenced entrees include a Vietnamese-style swordfish with field greens, as well as red curried vegetables. *(MS) 1081 Morrison Dr., (843) 727-1145, edmunds-oast.com. $$-$$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ

EDMUND'S OAST BREWING CO.

Don't expect a carbon copy of Edmund's Oast here; EOBC, at the Pacific Box & Crate development, is more playful. The best dishes are the messiest; try the homemade hot dog with chili and slaw or the wood-fired pizza drizzled with hot honey. *(MS) 1505 King St., (843) 718-3224, edmunds-oast.com. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 🌳 Ⓟ

EL PINCHO TACO

Mexican-owned and-run, El Pincho offers dishes you likely will not find elsewhere, such as burritos filled with *campechano* (carne asada and crumbly, unctuous chorizo sausage), *huaraches* (crisp masa filled with refried beans), or *cochinita pibil* (Yucatan-style pork, slow-roasted in banana leaves). *(MS) 616-B Meeting St., (843) 406-5958. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ

ÉLEVÉ

At the Grand Bohemian Hotel's rooftop restaurant and bar, you're looking at the stars. Arrive in time for happy hour, sit in the airy dining room, and sample the charcuterie, carpaccio, or a Southern Caesar with its corn-bread croutons and Comte cheese. Or dine on what may be the fanciest shrimp and grits in town. *(MS) 55 Wentworth St., (843) 724-4144, kesslercollection.com/eleve-restaurant. $$$$; B, L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓥ ☾

THE ESTABLISHMENT

Located in Broad Street's historic James Gregorie House, this restaurant specializes in polished small plates and larger mains that vary by the evening. Seafood takes the lead, with artfully prepared cuts of fish accompanied by bright, seasonal veggies. *(MS) 28 Broad St., (843) 789-4028, establishmentchs.com. $$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓥ

ESTADIO

At this Spring Street satellite of the popular DC Spanish spot of the same name, the ambiance matches the fare. Lively interpretations of tapas, paellas, and an entire gin and tonic program make Estadio worthy of repeat visits. No reservations, but standing at the communal table, snacking on *pintxos*, drink in hand, is all part of the fun. *(MS) 122 Spring St. (843) 793-1029, estadio-chs.com. $$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿

FELIX COCKTAILS & CUISINE

A brasserie with true Parisian flavor, Felix brings French standards to King Street. Expect onion soup, salade Lyonnaise, croque madame, and steak frites, but enjoy surprises like deviled eggs with lobster and a delightful caramelized onion-topped burger. *(MS) 550 King St., (843) 203-6297, felixchs.com. $$-$$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ ☾

FIG

FIG's busy little bar and welcoming dining room keep the focus squarely on the food and drink (the wine program was named most outstanding in the country in 2018 by the James Beard Foundation). The menu is chef Jason Stanhope's daily improvisation, based on the freshest, finest ingredients from local farmers and fishermen. Pro tip: start with the chicken liver pâté, a tradition and the one dish that always stays on the menu, and end with the Rare Wine Company's Madeira, a tribute to Lowcountry history. *232 Meeting St.,* *(843) 805-5900, eatatfig.com. $$$$; D.* Ⓨ ♿

FLEET LANDING

Located on Charleston Harbor, this seafood spot serves up Southern classics with a twist. Fleet's bar, deck, and harbor views make it a favorite for the happy hour cocktail crowd—and the perfect place to enjoy the fresh catch, roasted, grilled, or fried. *(MS) 186 Concord St., (843) 722-8100, fleetlanding.net. $$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* Ⓨ ♿ Ⓟ 💬

FRANNIE & THE FOX

With a cozy-yet-modern vibe and a courtyard reminiscent of an Italian piazza, this hot spot in the hotel Emeline has locals revisiting the City Market area in droves. With a focus on wood-fired, sharable dishes, executive chef Tim Morton fills the menu with balanced, approachable, seasonal fare. The pizzas boast perfectly chewy crusts, local farms supply the fresh veggies, and the blue crab fritters really do demand those puppies "hush." *(SB) 181 Church St., (843) 414-1673, hotelemeline.com. $$$$; B, L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* Ⓨ ♿ Ⓟ 💬

GABRIELLE

At Hotel Bennett's lobby restaurant, seafood and steaks are the name of the game, with several nods to the Lowcountry. Start with the rich she-crab soup or tuna carpaccio, bright and zesty with touches of orange and jalapeno. Look for seasonal preparations of scallops and flounder or go all out with a 16-ounce boneless rib eye, your choice of sauce. But do save room for chef Remy Funfrock's decadent dessert creations. *(DS) 404 King St., (843) 410-0513, hotelbennett.com. $$$$; B, L, D.* ♿ Ⓟ 💬

GAULART & MALICLET

With its community counter seating and straightforward menu featuring escargot, pâté plates, and simple entrees—always with a vegetarian option—G&M (aka Fast & French) provides a true bistro experience where suited businessfolk squeeze in with artsy types to make one happy family. *(MS) 98 Broad St., (843) 577-9797, fastandfrenchcharleston.com. $$-$$$; B, L, D.* ♿

GOULETTE

Upon first arrival, guests here may imagine they've stumbled into a sunny café in southern France. Owner Perig Goulet cultivates a laid-back ambiance, serving casual fare. Menu items include entrées of steak, lamb, and rotisserie chicken, all served with vegetables and duck fat pommes frites. Bonus: profiteroles to die for. *(MS) 210 Rutledge Ave., (843) 805-6699. $$$-$$$$; D.* Ⓨ ♿

GRILL 225

The swanky restaurant in the lobby of the Market Pavilion Hotel serves high-end lobster, chops, and steaks (read: fat filets, thick strips, and 16-ounce rib eyes). The booths are luxurious, the wine list robust, and the service impeccable. *(MS) 225 East*

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ABOUT CHEF OWEN BERNSTEIN

I am a Charleston-based private chef who creates culinary experiences and community through curated dining. Culinary interests have been a part of my life since a young age. Cooking for friends and family led to learning from five-star chefs for the last ten years. Originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, I developed a love for bringing together the shores of the North with the comfort of the South in my food. Travel and dining around the world inspire my cuisine, and I enjoy sharing my experiences through food and conversation with my guests.

I specialize in private dinners, celebrations, and meal prep throughout the Lowcountry. All my menus are seasonal and responsibly sourced, using local gardens and distributors. My private dinners are a great way to bring together family, celebrate birthdays or anniversaries, kickoff a bachelor/bachelorette party, or simply enjoy good food with good company. With my background of fitness and health, my meal prep services help you stay on track with your weekly goals while allowing you to spend less time in the kitchen. I offer all my services in the privacy of your home or any destination you may desire.

You can also find me collaborating with other local small businesses, hosting pop-ups at restaurants, and volunteering free cooking classes to help connect people and cultivate community. In the past year, I cooked for Southern Living during their Illumination Charleston event, which celebrates the holiday season through Southern culture and preservation. I have also made multiple guest chef appearances on Bravo's Southern Charm cooking for the cast and one-on-one meal prep. I am grateful for these moments that have built my culinary career to what it is today.

508-274-5130 | cramerscuisine@gmail.com
cramers_cuisine
CRAMERSCUISINE.COM

Bay St., (843) 266-4222, marketpavilion.com. $$$$; D. 🍸 ♿ Ⓥ

THE GROCERY

Chef-owner Kevin Johnson's menu celebrates artisanal local producers year-round in a roomy, handsome Cannonborough space steps off of King Street. A menu conveniently categorized into produce, seafood, and meat includes an incredible perloo of Charleston Gold rice and field peas with clams, shrimp, and crispy fish. A house pickling program also highlights this chef's culinary focus. *(MS) 4 Cannon St., (843) 302-8825, thegrocerycharleston.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

{MAY 14} CUPCAKE BOUQUET CLASS

Forget flowers, surprise Mom with a cupcake bouquet. Make and take home your own pretty assortment of confections at this special Mother's Day class at Mercantile & Mash. The ticket price includes one child and one parent with small bites and bubbles for the grown-ups. Tickets available through Eventbrite. *701 East Bay St. Sunday, 4 p.m. $75. mercandmash.com*

HALLS CHOPHOUSE

Savor old-school style and flavor at this upscale institution on Upper King. Grab a stool at the bustling bar, or head upstairs for a more intimate dining experience. Either way, you'll be indulging in top-drawer cuisine, such as lump crab cakes, blue cheese wedge salad, lobster and bacon mac and cheese, and prime Allen Brothers steaks. *(MS) 434 King St., (843) 727-0090, hallschophouse.com. $$$$; D, Sat & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ ☾

HANDY & HOT

This eatery from chef Vivian Howard serves up savory hand pies, including apple and "Tomato Pie in a Pocket," plus coffee drinks and Life Raft Treat ice cream novelties. *(DS) 68 Wentworth St., (843) 534-9032, handyandhot.com. $; B, L.* ♿

HANK'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Custom-built to convey the style of a classic Charleston fish house, Hank's serves seafood ranging from raw bar selections to sautéed or grilled fish served with sauces that turn it into from-scratch specialties. It's the place for oyster stew and the chance to taste the city's past in the old-time dish Seafood á la Wando. *(MS) 10 Hayne St., (843) 723-3474, hanksseafoodrestaurant.com. $$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿

HANNIBAL'S KITCHEN

The simple but satisfying crab and shrimp rice has a dedicated following at this family-owned soul food spot on Charleston's East Side. *(DS) 16 Blake St., (843) 722-2256, hannibalkitchen.com. $$; L, D.* 🌳

HAROLD'S CABIN

This Westside eatery, spearheaded by John Schumacher with partner Bill Murray, sits on the site of its namesake, a beloved neighborhood grocery and lunch counter located there for 30 years. Order specialty cocktails and casual comfort fare, like the Cabin Burger 2.0, at the bar and mosey up to the rooftop garden to enjoy it. *(MS) 247 Congress St., (843) 793-4440, haroldscabin.com. $-$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

HERD PROVISIONS

This Wagener Terrace retail butcher shop and restaurant showcases proteins from Leaping Waters Farm, where heritage cattle and pigs roam on owner Alec Bradford's pasture. Vibrant salads and sides offer balance to the meat-heavy mains—hearty as one might expect—as do vegetarian dishes and Provençal fish stew. *(MS) 106 Grove St., (843) 637-4145, herdprovisions.com. $$$-$$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

HIGH COTTON

This handsome restaurant has a posh bar and a dining room reminiscent of a members-only clubhouse. Smoked-brie baked oysters and she-crab soup accent a classic offering of steaks and seafood. Don't miss the brioche French toast at brunch. *(MS) 199 East Bay St., (843) 724-3815, highcottoncharleston.com. $$$$; D & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿

HOKKAIDO SUSHI & HIBACHI

Decor is low-frills, but the fare is on point at this sushi spot. Start with one of the many hand rolls, which satisfy both elaborate and simple cravings, or the hibachi entrées for those drawn to warmer fare. Green tea ice cream makes for a cool finish. *(MS) 99 Westedge St., Suite 1600, (843) 501-7296, hokkaidocharleston.com. $-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌳

HOME TEAM BBQ

Fans that have scarfed down the 'cue at Home Team's West Ashley or Sullivan's Island locations can hit up the restaurant's third home on Williman Street. There, a bigger footprint has enabled them to serve an expanded menu of tacos, boards, and creative cocktails. *(MS) 126 Williman St., (843) 225-7427, hometeambbq.com. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ ☾ 🌳

HUSK

Chef Ray England, who grew up on his family's cattle farm, brings reverence for regional purveyors to his role helming this esteemed kitchen. What's more, he deftly plays their ingredients off each other in dishes like porchetta with sofrito-braised beans and fennel (a heavenly take on Southern pork and beans) and cornmeal-fried catfish with butter bean hoppin' John and tomato gravy. *(ML) 76 Queen St., (843) 577-2500, huskrestaurant.com. $$$$; D, Sat & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿

INDACO

It's all about tradition at this Upper King restaurant. With mains accompanied by wood-fired pizzas, rich pastas, and truffles when in season, Indaco delivers Italian fare in a sleek space plus a craft cocktail program as good as the menu—perfect for happy hour on the side patio. *(MS) 526 King St., (843) 727-1228, indacorestaurant.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 🌳

ISLAND PROVISIONS

A downtown outpost of the John's Island OG, this sunny all-day cafe and market beckons customers to grab a breakfast sandwich and coffee to go or linger over, say, mustard and tarragon chicken salad on a croissant and a mango and carrot smoothie spiked with ginger and tumeric. Come 3 p.m., the menu shifts to snacks such as toast topped with whipped feta-hot honey or smoked trout with dill crème fraîche, either of which would make a lovely light supper with a bottle of wine pulled from the tightly curated shelves. And bonus: no corkage fee. *(ML) 221 St. Philip St., (843) 718-0812, islandprovisions.com. $-$$; B, L, D, Sat & Sun. BR* 🌳🍸♿

LAUREL

Drop into chef Trae Wilson's relaxed neighborhood spot inspired by his travels in Spain for sangria on draft and an array of *pintxos* (small plates) to share with friends. Recent standouts were the bright, herby *boquerones* (white anchovies) with house-made potato chips and rich lamb meatballs. Or make it a date night for the entrees, with whole grilled fish or the Wagyu rib eye. *(DS) 161 Rutledge Ave., (843) 974-5159, laurelcharleston.com. $$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿

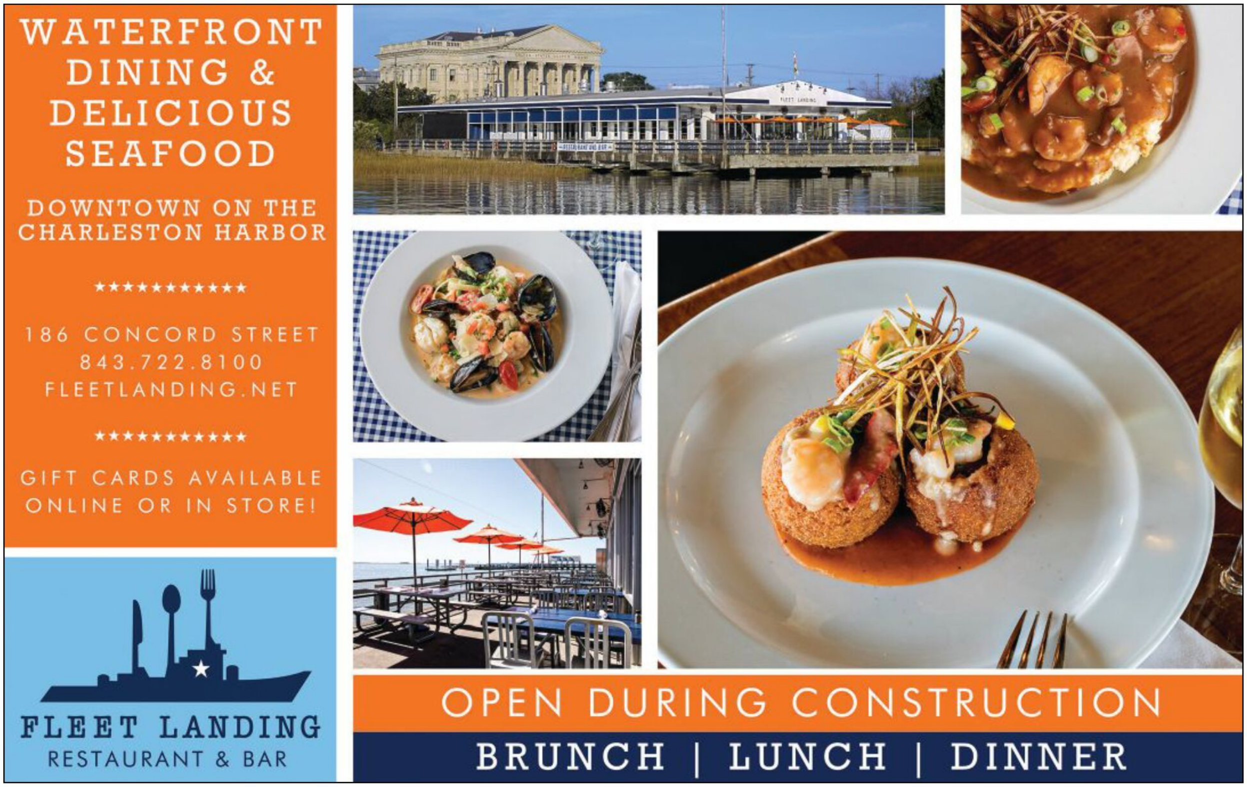
LE FARFALLE

Michael Toscano's Italian osteria offers up memorable meals with standout dishes from start (pork meatballs or calamari *fritti*) to finish (tiramisu). His excellent house-made pasta—the spaghetti alla puttanesca is heavenly—makes for an outstanding *secondi*, so save room. Even the warm rosemary focaccia with whipped ricotta and extra-virgin olive oil is a delight. *(MS) 15 Beaufain St., (843) 212-0920, lefarfalle charleston.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌳

LENOIR

Vivian Howard's eatery may be located in the Renaissance Hotel and named for her North Carolina home county, but it feels like a neighborhood spot. Patty melts, cornmeal-dusted catfish, and sticky-sweet blueberry barbecue wings grace the menu; and the cocktail list is fresh and fruit-forward—try the blood orange and mezcal "Above Your Raisin." *(SB) 68 Wentworth St., (843) 534-9031, dineatlenoir.com. $$$-$$$$; L, D.* 🍸 Ⓟ ♿

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MERCANTILE & MASH



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LEON'S FINE POULTRY & OYSTER SHOP

Housed in a former auto shop on Upper King Street, this retro restaurant ranks high as an ideal neighborhood hangout. There's fried chicken, peel-and-eat shrimp, oyster rolls, and crab Louie salad, but don't miss the chargrilled oysters—they're a trademark. *(MS) 698 King St., (843) 531-6500, leonsoystershop.com. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 🌳 Ⓟ ♿

LEWIS BARBECUE

This counter service-only restaurant stays packed with a long line of carnivores eagerly awaiting their fill of ribs, pulled pork, hot sausage, and the almighty smoked brisket (owner John Lewis's specialty). Just add a side of green chile corn pudding. *464 N. Nassau St., (843) 805-9500, lewisbarbecue.com. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌳

LITTLE JACK'S TAVERN

Extensive research resulted in this American tavern and a dining experience that feels timeless, with fare that includes crudites, chopped salad, crab cakes, and the crown jewel: the Tavern Burger. *(MS) 710 King St., (843) 531-6868, littlejackstavern.com. $$$-$$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓥ

LITTLE LINE KITCHEN & PROVISIONS

This tiny jewel of a café is tucked into a storefront just off Ashley Avenue. An all-day breakfast menu focuses on simple breakfast sandwiches, bagels imported from Brooklyn, bacon, and grits. Come the weekend, the menu expands for a more leisurely pace with specials like the kimchi fried rice bowl with farm eggs, Brown's Court sticky buns, buttermilk biscuits, and omelets, the latter served with perfectly crispy fries. For lunch or supper on Thursdays and Fridays, try the fried chicken sandwich on brioche. *(SB) 176 Line St., (843) 640-3057, littlelinechs.com. $-$$; B, L, (Thurs. & Fri D), Sat & Sun. BR* ♿ 🌳

{MAY 15}
FROM THE RANCH TO THE RIO DINNER

James Beard award-nominated chef Philip Speer (above) joins local pitmaster John Lewis for a special collaborative dinner at Rancho Lewis highlighting the food they both grew up eating. "From the Rio to Rancho: A Culinary Tour" celebrates the cuisines of the south and west Texas borders in a five-course dinner, each course representing a different region. *1503 King St. Monday, reservations start at 5 p.m. $60 (beverage pairings served a la carte). rancholewischs.com*

THE LUX

Head to The Lux at Warehouse for modernist cuisine served without pretension. Two Alinea alums produce a tasting menu of dishes, such as "Crab," a delicate crab cake topped by a caraway tuile with a surprise pop of apple gelée, and "Celery," a vegetal gnudi made rich with chestnut, truffle, and Parmesan. Go early before the party scene descends or hit these talents up on a Sunday night, when the bar is quiet and fellow foodies appreciate the parade of culinary delights. (DS) *45 1/2 Spring St., (843) 202-0712, wearewarehouse.com. $$$-$$$$.* ♿ 🍸

MAGNOLIAS

Magnolias has been serving its "Uptown/Down South Cuisine" since 1990. Its Lowcountry fine-dining fare includes cornmeal-fried catfish, shrimp and scallops over creamy grits, and pan-fried chicken livers. *(MS) 185 East Bay St., (843) 577-7771, magnoliascharleston.com. $$$$; L, D, Sun. BR.* 🍸 Ⓟ

MAISON

Rustic charm and modern lines define this chic little French bistro. Here, French classics go contemporary, as with the everything-spiced salmon rillette, monkfish chop with chicken-brown butter sauce, or onion soup croquette. The elegant wine list and quaffable cocktails pair perfectly with the rich menu. *(MS) 708 King St., (843) 990-9165, maisoncharleston.com. $$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

MALAGÓN MERCADO Y TAPERIA

Chef Juan Casselett's spirited Spanish menu creatively ventures beyond conventional tapas and is accompanied by a list of Spanish beer and wines. Peruse the charming market wall stocked with imported specialty products from Spain. Reservations are a must, even for the bar. *(MS) 33 Spring St., (843) 926-0475, malagonchs.com. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

MARINA VARIETY STORE

A killer view of the Ashley River and hit-the-spot breakfasts, lunches, and fresh seafood dinners (featuring satisfying shrimp platters, fried clam strips, and fresh crab dip) make this beach-town joint—founded some 50 years ago—a favorite among boaters, visitors, and business folks alike. *(MS) 17 Lockwood Dr., (843) 723-6325, varietystorerestaurant.com. $$-$$$; B, L, D, Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

MAYA

For Mexican food on the Upper King Street scene, this spot with a back bar and patio channels the boho vibes of Tulum. Start with one of the smoky mezcal cocktails, along with the *antojitos*, such as the light and bright guacamole. An in-house masa program means corn chips and tortillas are freshly made; and the entire dinner menu is gluten-free. Tacos (don't skip the brisket) and entrees, such as pollo en mole, round out the offerings. *(DS) 479 King St., (843) 789-4299, mayachs.com. $$-$$$; D, Sun BR.* 🍸 🌙 ♿ 🌳 Ⓥ

MEETING AT MARKET

Charleston Place may not have previously come to mind when choosing a spot to grab beers, upscale pub snacks, burgers, or even a Cobb salad while watching the game, but that changed with Meeting at Market, a highbrow sports bar overlooking the City Market. *(MS) 120 Market St., (843) 724-7205. $$-$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌙

MELFI'S

This classy little Italian restaurant caters to adult diners (i.e, it's not your children's pizza place). Melfi's specializes in simple pasta plates and creative thin-crusted pies like The Mr. Wally, its vodka-based sauce topped with salami, mushrooms, pickled fresno peppers, and mozz. Love osso bucco? Find your veal shanks here. *(MS) 721 King St., (843) 513-0307, eatatmelfis.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

MERCANTILE & MASH

On the Mercantile side at this Cigar Factory joint, diners can nosh on an all-day breakfast menu or settle in for soup, sandwich, or a burger. Bonus: a separate menu for the kids. At Mash, patrons hang till 11 p.m. for the American whiskey list and bar bites. *(MS) 701 East Bay St., (843) 793-2636, mercandmash.com. $-$$; B, L.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ

MILLERS ALL DAY

Both sweet and savory devotees will find dishes that hit the spot: waffles drizzled with sorghum syrup, the daily grit bowl, or the bacon-egg-and-cheese sandwich served on an everything brioche bun. *(MS) 120 King St., (843) 501-7342, millersallday.com. $-$$; B, L, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿

MOE'S CROSSTOWN TAVERN

Barflies won't want for great food when they hit this spot near Hampton Park. With a fat menu—the burgers are all winners—plus happy hour snack and drink specials weekdays from 4 to 7 p.m., this tavern is a neighborhood favorite. *(MB) 714 Rutledge Ave., (843) 641-0469, moescrosstowntavern.com. $$; L, D.* 🍸 🌙 ♿

MUSE

Occupying a charming Italianate single house, this restaurant and wine bar serves up Mediterranean cuisine, combining pasta, dates, and Eastern spices with seafood and meats, which creates a happy harmony of flavors. Plus you can count on a handful of Italian standbys: fettuccine carbonara, tagliatelle Bolognese, and veal scaloppini. *(MS) 82 Society St., (843) 577-1102, charlestonmuse.com. $$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

OAK STEAKHOUSE

If you're craving a tender filet or prime New York strip, head to this Broad Street mainstay. Oak serves Certified Angus Beef, so the super-hungry will salivate over the 16-ounce rib eye. Lighter eaters will want to try the carpaccio or lobster mac and cheese. *(MS) 17 Broad St., (843) 722-4220,*

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PHILIP SPEER

oaksteakhouserestaurant.com. $$$$; D. 🍸 ♿

O-KU

This stylish spot is a high-end sushi and sake staple. Hand rolls include a lobster *temaki*, and there's a nigiri offering of seared Wagyu with bulgogi sauce and caviar. Bonus: duck buns and the only dim sum in town. ***(MS) 463 King St., (843) 737-0112, o-kusushi.com. $$$-$$$$; D.*** 🍸 🌙 Ⓥ

THE ORDINARY

The stately oyster hall, built in a 1927 bank, features an ever-evolving seafood menu from chef-owner Mike Lata that includes an American caviar service and an array of intriguing mains. Go for the crispy oyster sliders; stay for the showstopping pristine seafood tower, which offers a variety of oysters, shrimp, and clams. ***(MS) 544 King St., (843) 414-7060, eattheordinary.com. $$$$; D.*** 🍸 🌳

PALMETTO CAFE

Come lunchtime, Gucci and Louis Vuitton shoppers rest their weary selves at this cafe on the ground floor of Charleston Place hotel, where the crab salad or seafood club fuels them for more power shopping. There's a trendy breakfast menu plus appealing offerings for those under 12. ***(MS) 205 Meeting St., (843) 722-4900. $$$-$$$$; B, L.*** 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

PARK & GROVE

With an elegant interior and chef Ramon Taimanglo helming the kitchen, the neighborhood fave focuses on seasonally inspired dinner fare and cocktails, but serves up a standout lunch menu and a leisurely brunch on weekends. Look for polished plates like salmon cakes with scallion sauce and an array of vintage spirits. ***(ML) 730 Rutledge Ave., (843) 410-1070, parkandgrovechs.com. $$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun BR.*** 🍸 ♿ 🌳 🌙

PAVILION BAR

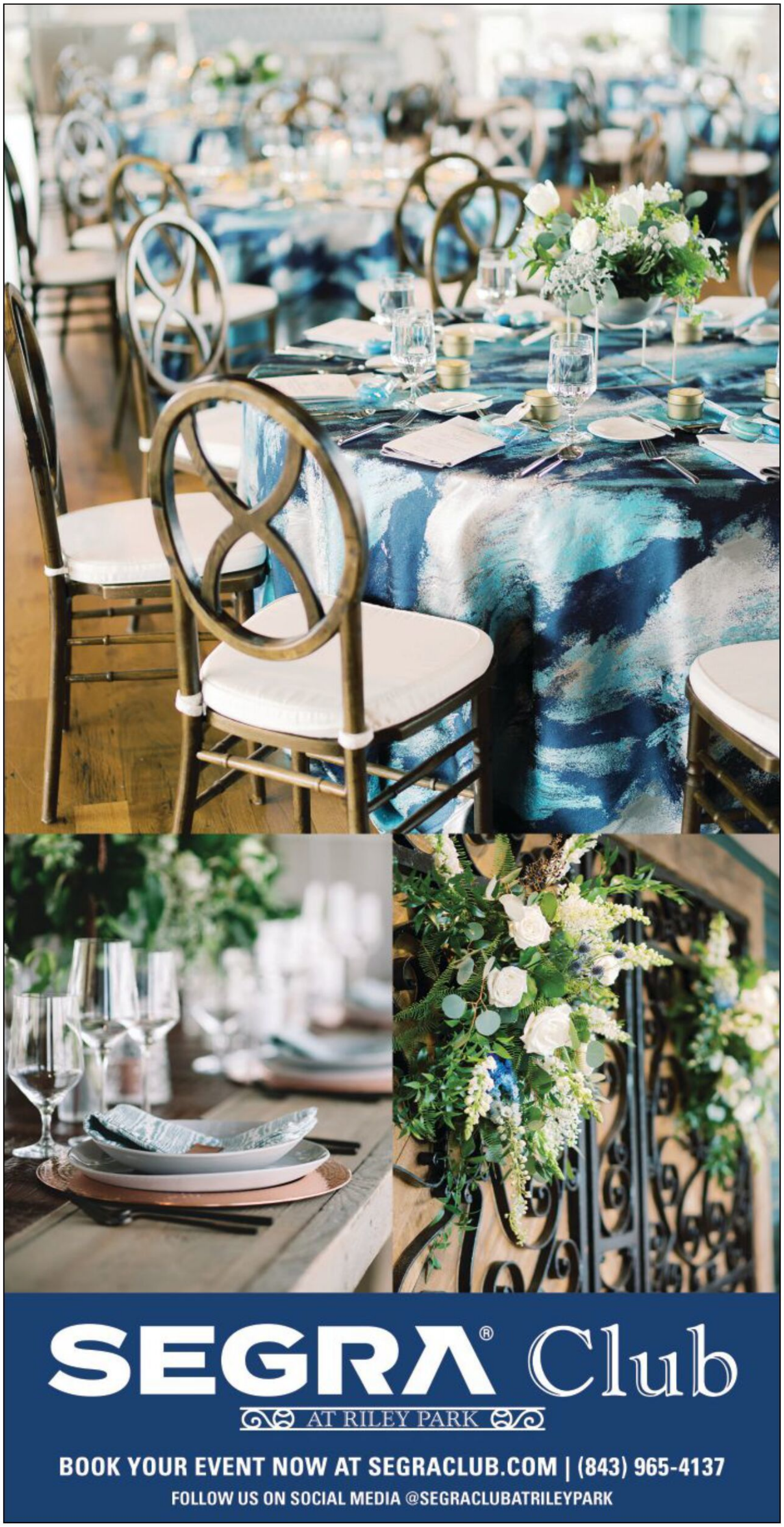
The view from the top of this upscale hotel near the City Market can't be beat. The menu features eclectic appetizers, such as jumbo shrimp satays and duck confit nachos, but there's also a more traditional array of burgers, salads, and pizzas. ***(MS) 225 East Bay St., (843) 723-0500, marketpavilion.com. $$$; L, D.*** 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓥ 🌙

PEARLZ OYSTER BAR

With the feel of an old-school raw bar, Pearlz offers peel-and-eat shrimp, oyster shooters, and baked oysters Rockefeller on a menu headlined by bivalves. The offerings are rounded out by a selection of fresh catches, steaks, and burgers. ***(MS) 153 East Bay St., (843) 577-5755, pearlz-oysterbar.com. $$-$$$; L, D.*** 🍸 ♿

PENINSULA GRILL

Thankfully, time has not changed the luxurious dining experience at Planters Inn. The champagne bar sets the tone with sweetbreads, foie gras, and caviar. The dining room delivers she-crab soup,



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rack of lamb, and every possible prime cut of steak. *(MS) 112 North Market St., (843) 723-0700, peninsulagrill.com. $$$$; D.* 🍸 🌳 ♿

PINK BELLIES

Chef-owner Thai Phi's eclectic Vietnamese menu includes *bun cha gio* (pork noodle salad) and his beloved garlic noodles, as well as an In-N-Out "animal-style" double burger. Local brews, such as Westbrook White Thai, and a slew of fun cocktails wash it down. Bonus: counter service ensures dishes, and diners, move quickly. *(ML) 595-1 King St., (843) 640-3132, eatpinkbellies.com. $$, D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

PINK CACTUS

An ode to Oaxaca, one of Mexico's gastronomic capitals, Pink Cactus offers several vibrant, savory sauces that embolden its tacos, enchiladas, tortas, and more. Pop by on Thursdays for tacos de birria.*(JC) 100-A Spring St., (843) 764-9343, pinkcactuschs.com. $$; L, D.* 🍸 ☾ ♿ Ⓟ

POOGAN'S PORCH

Step back into Charleston history in this Victorian house built in 1891 with porch dining on two floors. Biscuits and gravy and fried chicken breast with waffles and sorghum butter star on the brunch menu. Dinner is all Southern all the time, with pimiento cheese fritters and chicken-fried pork chops. (MS) *72 Queen St., (843) 577-2337, poogansporch.com. $$-$$$; BR, D.* 🍸 🌳

POOGAN'S SMOKEHOUSE

Barbecue is the focus at this East Bay spot (a sibling of Poogan's Porch). The offerings include pulled pork, ribs, smoked brisket, and smoked sausage, along with a slew of Southern sides large and small. *(MS) 188 East Bay St., (843) 577-5665, pooganssmokehouse.com. $$$; L, D.* 🍸

THE QUINTE OYSTER BAR

Stained oak paneling, sleek marble, dimmed lighting, and brass details set an elegant, clubby tone in the former Bob Ellis Shoes building, where executive chef Nicolas Quintero and his team deftly produce a small but satisfying menu geared exclusively to seafood lovers. Order a tower for a sampling from the raw bar, including clams, oysters, shrimp cocktail, stone crab claws, and lightly charred sweet lobster tail. *(DS) 36 George St., (854) 895-4639, thequinte.com. $$$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

RANCHO LEWIS

Pitmaster John Lewis's second local spot finds inspiration from the Northern Rio Grande Valley, in both its cowboy decor and ingredients. Highlights include grilled cheese tacos, shrimp cocktail, and Hatch chile cheeseburgers, plus cocktails such as the tequila-laden "Rattlesnake Milk" and margaritas swirled with mango or Hatch chiles. *(HR) 1503 King St., (843) 996-4500, rancholewis.com. $$$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌳

RAPPAHANNOCK OYSTER BAR

Choose from Virginia-farmed half shells or a rotating selection of local clams and oysters at this Eastside spot with a 40-seat copper bar. Eats range from crunchy tempura sea beans to the simple po' boy or a lovely dish of local catch. *(MS) 701 East Bay St., (843) 576-4693, rroysters.com. $$$-$$$$; L, D* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌳

THE RAREBIT

This throwback Hollywood-esque diner serves a full menu, including vegan offerings. The all-day breakfast hits the spot for late-nite revelers. *(MS) 474 King St., (843) 974-5483, therarebit.com. $$-$$$; B, L, D, Sun BR.* 🍸 ☾ ♿

RENZO

It's all about natural wines and wood-fired pizzas—with specialty toppings like the piquillo pepper sauce, chorizo, and medjool dates on the Wrath of Kahan or with Brussels sprouts and butternut squash on the vegetarian option, Lil' Sprout. *(MS) 384 Huger St., (843) 259-2760, renzochs.com. $$-$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

REPUBLIC GARDEN & LOUNGE

In addition to a sizeable cocktail list and bottle service, this King Street disco offers solid food. Think onion rings, wings, cheeseburgers, even salad—plenty to keep any partier fueled throughout the night. *(MS) 462 King St., (843) 724-7400, republicreign.com. $$; D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ☾ ♿ 🌳

REVIVAL

At this sunlit restaurant at The Vendue, classics get a modern spin. Start with the chopped salad, with roasted pimentos, artichokes, shaved red onion, and green olives, adapted from a 1904 World's Fair recipe. Fish or fowl to follow—and always an eight-ounce filet. *(AT) 162 East Bay St., (843) 414-2335, revivalcharleston.com. $$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ

R. KITCHEN

Reservations are hard to get at R. Kitchen, as it only seats up to 20 people. The menu changes daily, and you sit at the counter to experience all that the chef has to offer. Be sure to check out the West Ashley location, too. *(MS) 212 Rutledge Ave., (843) 789-4342, rutledgekitchen.com. $$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

RODNEY SCOTT'S BBQ

Rodney Scott has stoked a far-reaching reputation as a barbecue virtuoso. Venture into all things porcine with a whole hog plate or some succulent ribs. Scott's brisket and cornmeal-crusted catfish filet are stellar, and the creamy, rich banana pudding alone makes it worth paying a visit. *(MS) 1011 King St., (843) 990-9535, rodneyscottsbbq.com. $-$$$; L, D.* ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ

RUTLEDGE CAB CO.

Wagener Terrace likes casual and comfy and gets both with this burger joint and bar. But there's brunch fare, too, and you'll be surprised at the nightly specials, which might be okra fries, a turkey reuben, or cornmeal fried catfish over Gouda grits. *(MS) 1300 Rutledge Ave., (843) 720-1440, rutledgecabco.com. $$-$$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ ☾

SANTI'S RESTAURANTE MEXICANO

At this festive, no-frills Mexican spot, start with a tasty margarita and guacamole before indulging in enchiladas, burritos, or chicken with *mole* sauce. *(MS) 1302 Meeting Street Rd., (843) 722-2633, santisrestaurantemexicano.com. $$; L, D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ

SLIGHTLY NORTH OF BROAD (S.N.O.B.)

This eclectic eatery in an 18th-century warehouse remains a local favorite after two decades of service. Shrimp and grits with house-made sausage and country ham and grilled tuna topped with fried oysters are standouts. *(MS) 192 East Bay St., (843) 723-3424, snobcharleston.com. $$$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿

SORGHUM & SALT

At this farm-and-sea-to-table restaurant, simple dishes take the spotlight, such as short rib with sweet corn puree, black garlic, and shishito peppers. Bonus: a separate vegan menu with a sufficient number of offerings to please any plant-based diner. *(MS) 186 Coming St., (843) 872-6393, sorghumandsalt.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿

SOUTHBOUND NEW!

The hottest seats at this live-fire restaurant surround the oak-fed hearth and grill in the dining room, accented with white marble tables, burnished brass fixtures, and emerald green Moroccan tile. Gems on the menu include the steak tartare served with smoked egg and grilled toast with miso butter, a dry-aged New York strip, and coal-roasted potatoes. *(HR) 72 Cannon St.; (843) 823-0212, southboundchs.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

STARS ROOFTOP & GRILL ROOM

This Upper King Street spot serves up a menu that includes pan-seared Atlantic salmon, steaks, and vegetable risotto. Grab a drink on the rooftop bar with a view of seven of the city's steeples. *(MS) 495 King St., (843) 577-0100, starsrestaurant.com. $$$$; D, Sat. & Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

STELLA'S

Start your Greek feast with *meze* (small plates) such as the *keftedes* (beef and lamb meatballs). Then opt for the *pikelia* tasting platter tour of five dishes with souvlaki and spanakopita. The grilled *psari* (whole fish of the day) is a reliably pleasing main. *(MS) 114 A St. Philip St., (843) 400-0026, stellascharleston.com. $$$-$$$$; D.* 🍸 ♿ 🌳

SUSHI WA IZAKAYA

A Japanese mainstay that offers a chef's counter

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for a traditional *omakase* experience. Select from local sashimi or a variety of nigiri, including South Carolina flounder or fatty tuna. ***(MS) 1503 King St. Ext. (843) 735-8633, sushiwacharleston.com. $$$$; D.*** ☾

TABBULI

Bearing a cozy outdoor courtyard, this is the perfect stop for a rum cocktail and some Middle Eastern fare. In addition to falafel, gyros, and baba ghanoush, the menu includes a selection of greens, such as Greek and tahini-dressed salads. ***(KG) 541 King St., (843) 628-5959, tabbuli.com. $-$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.*** 🍸 ♿ 🌳

TACO BOY

With the same festive feel as its Folly Beach sister—and a matching menu of tasty tacos, quesadillas, queso, margaritas, and more—the downtown outpost offers indoor and outdoor spaces ideal for family dinners and happy hour revelers alike. ***(MS) 217 Huger St., (843) 789-3333, tacoboy.net. $-$$; L, D.*** 🍸 ♿ 🌳 Ⓟ ☾

TBONZ GILL & GRILL

Hungry folks shopping the Market will do well to stop into TBonz. After a fried pickle plate, Certified Angus Beef steak, or order of fried jumbo shrimp and a couple of ice-cold drafts, you'll be happy you came. ***(MS) 80 N. Market St., (843) 577-2511, tbonzgillandgrill.com. $$$-$$$$; L, D.*** 🍸 ♿

{MAY 21}
CHEF'S POTLUCK

Join F&B pros from some of the city's most beloved restaurants, including Jackrabbit Filly and Edmund's Oast, as they partner with local purveyors—from farmers to fisherman—for Lowcountry Local First's 15th-annual Chef's Potluck at Holy City Brewery. *1021 Aragon Ave., North Charleston. Sunday, 4-7 p.m. $125.* lowcountrylocalfirst.org

TEMPEST

Located in a former Mariners' church, this upscale Market Street spot aptly focuses on seafood, with offerings ranging from the bite-sized Umami Tuna Bombs starter and shellfish selections, both raw and charcoal-roasted, to entrées such as confit swordfish with béarnaise. Come brunch, indulge in the lobster benedict. ***(DS) 32 N. Market St., (843) 996-4966, tempestcharleston.com. $$$$; L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.*** 🍸 Ⓥ

VERN'S

With a rustic hearth, cozy tables, and glass doors that open onto the sidewalk, this sunny Cannonborough-Elliotborough corner feels more Left Bank than Holy City. Chef Daniel Heinze's menu is ingredient-driven, like yellowfin tuna in a crudo with Calabrian chile; bitter lettuces in a salad showered with garlicky bread crumbs; and a juicy pork loin crisped to perfection with creamy saffron mustard. ***(ML) 41 Bogard St., (843) 509-4104, vernschs.com. $$$$; D, Sat. & Sun. BR.*** ♿

VIRGINIA'S ON KING

At this home-cooking eatery, brunch is served daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and there's salad and sandwiches for anyone who doesn't fancy pancakes for lunch. Supper starts at 3 p.m.—munch fried green tomatoes while waiting for your home-style meatloaf with mashed potatoes and gravy. ***(MS) 412 King St., (843) 735-5800, holycityhospitality.com. $$$; B, L, D, Sat. & Sun. BR.*** 🍸 ♿

THE WATCH ROOFTOP KITCHEN

Located on The Restoration hotel's rooftop, The Watch offers a splendid view of Charleston with your early breakfast. Later, indulge in boards of charcuterie and cheese or of vegetables, burrata, and jam—and there's always a fresh catch. ***(MS) 79 Wentworth St., (843) 518-5115, therestorationhotel.com. $$$-$$$$; B, L, D, Sun. BR.*** 🍸 ☾ ♿ 🌳

WILD COMMON

Birdcage light fixtures and "living wallpaper" projections emphasize a spirit of blithe grandeur that chef Orlando Pagán grounds with a sumptuous tasting menu at this fine dining spot. Order the four-course menu or bring a group for the chef's table. ***(MS) 103 Spring St., (843) 817-7311, wildcommoncharleston.com. $$$$; D.*** 🍸 ♿ 🌳

XIAO BAO BISCUIT

In this cheery repurposed gas station, don't miss the *mapo dou fou* (Sichuan-spicy pork and tofu with broad bean and chile oil), deep-fried sticky rice dumplings filled with carmelized pork, and the *okonomiyaki*—a cabbage pancake topped with bacon, pork candy, a farm egg, or all three. ***(MS) 224 Rutledge Ave., xiaobaobiscuit.com. $$-$$$; L, D.*** ♿ 🌳 🍸 Ⓟ

ZERO RESTAURANT + BAR

Tucked in the courtyard of the posh Zero George Hotel, this petite eatery's patio feels like a secret garden. Chef Vinson Petrillo serves sophisticated dishes on a multi-course modernist tasting menu. There is caviar service, curated wine and craft cocktail lists, and, after dinner, a nightcap at the cozy bar. ***(MS) 0 George St., (843) 817-7900, zerorestaurantcharleston.com. $$$$; D.*** 🍸 🌳 Ⓥ ♿

NORTH CHARLESTON

THE CODFATHER

Proper fish and chips are served in this British-style chippy with a slightly dive-y feel. And the food is spot on; crispy, tender fish, savory pies, sausage rolls, and craft brews in a roomy space make this Park Circle haunt a favorite. ***(MS) 4254 Spruill Ave., (843) 789-4649thecodfatherchippy.com. $-$$; L, D.*** 🍸 ♿ 🌳

EVO PIZZERIA

It's hard to name a "best" pizza joint in town, but there is a best pizza. No one comes close to matching the Pork Trifecta, EVO's ode to all things porcine. Loaded with ham, bacon, and sausage, it's the only pie we know of to inspire its own bumper sticker. For vegetarians, the pistachio pesto pie can't be beat. Tasty salads round out a stellar bill of fare that never disappoints. ***(MS) 1075 E. Montague Ave., (843) 225-1796, evopizza.com. $$-$$$; L, D.*** 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌳

JACKRABBIT FILLY

Reenvisioned Chinese dishes play harmoniously with kindred East Asian riffs at this Park Circle restaurant by husband-and-wife Shuai and Corrie Wang. Enjoy a sake or cocktail with *karaage* (Japanese fried chicken doused in lemony mayo), or the many seafood-centric rotating dishes in the lively, spirited atmosphere. For brunch, think dim sum that will have you craving dumplings and scallion pancakes at the crack of dawn. ***(MS & SB) 4628 Spruill Ave., (843) 460-0037, jackrabbitfilly.com. $-$$$; L, D, Sat. BR.*** 🍸 Ⓟ 🌳

THE JUNCTION KITCHEN & PROVISIONS

Carb load at this all-day breakfast hub, where the biscuits with sausage gravy and the Buzzed Doughnut (stuffed with coffee-rubbed bacon and scrambled eggs) are musts. Grab a sammie, salad, taco, or cheesesteak at lunchtime. ***(MS) 4438 Spruill Ave., (843) 745-9189, thejunctionkitchen.com. $-$$; B, L, Sat. & Sun. BR.*** 🍸 ♿ Ⓟ 🌳

MA GLORIA'S TRINIDAD

Soca beats and friendly service await at this outpost for the diverse flavors of the Caribbean nation. Try the doubles (curried chickpeas tucked into pillowy pockets of flatbread); the award-winning jerk chicken; tender oxtail served with calypso rice and a Trini-style veggie chow mein; or opt for the *dhalpuri* roti stuffed with savory yellow split peas. ***(MS) 3640-B Dorchester Rd., (843) 225-2116, facebook.com/MGTCatering. $$$; L, D.*** ♿ Ⓟ

MAYA DEL SOL KITCHEN

Three days a week, chef Raul Sanchez's lunch service features tacos, burritos, and tortas at a simple diner-style counter. At night, that counter is transformed into a chef's table for a fixed price, five-course dinner with a creative array of Mexican-themed plates that blend comfort food and fine dining, like pot roast with mole. ***(RM) 1813 Reynolds Ave., (843) 225-2390, raulsmayadelsol.com. $-$$$; L, D. Sun. BR*** ♿ 🌳

MOMO

New York has long had Tavern on the Green. Now, North Charleston has park-side dining of its own at Riverfront Park. The raw bar's oysters and ceviche are joined by small plates like roasted-carrot hummus and smoked chicken thighs with peanuts and hot maple sauce. Burgers, fried chicken

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM CHANDLER PHOTOGRAPHY

sandwiches, and a few hefty plates like steak frites, round out the bill. *(RM) 1049 Everglades Ave., (843) 724-9940, momocharleston.com. $$-$$$; L, D, Sun BR.* 🍸 ♿ 💬

PADDOCK & WHISKY

Bourbon runs through the veins of this sister location to the original on James Island, featuring an in-house selection of more than 200 whiskeys and a private tasting room inside a converted vault. Lunch, dinner, and late-night menus offer familiar dinner staples like burgers and fries and a New York strip served with chimichurri. *(HR) 1074 E. Montague Ave., (843) 203-4238, paddockandwhisky.com. $-$$$; L, D, Sat & Sun BR.* 🍸 🌙 ♿

REBEL TAQUERIA

The two-block spur of Reynolds Avenue is quickly becoming North Charleston's new taco row, thanks in part to this team, who found a permanent home for their taco truck in the shadows of the old Navy base. Tacos, tequila, and cold beer anchor the offerings along with a few tempting novelties like Yoda Balls (jalapeno hush puppies) and tuna poké nachos. *(RM) 1809 Reynolds Ave, (843) 619-0104, rebeltaqueria.com. $$; L, D.* ♿ Ⓟ 💬

SESAME BURGERS & BEER

A burger joint with good options for vegetarians? Yes, it exists. At the Park Circle outpost of Sesame, diners can personalize their meat or meatless burgers and sandwiches with a fried egg, coleslaw, caramelized onions, and even pimiento cheese. *(MS) 4726 Spruill Ave., (843) 554-4903, sesameburgersandbeer.com. $$; L, D.* 🍸 Ⓟ 💬

STEMS & SKINS

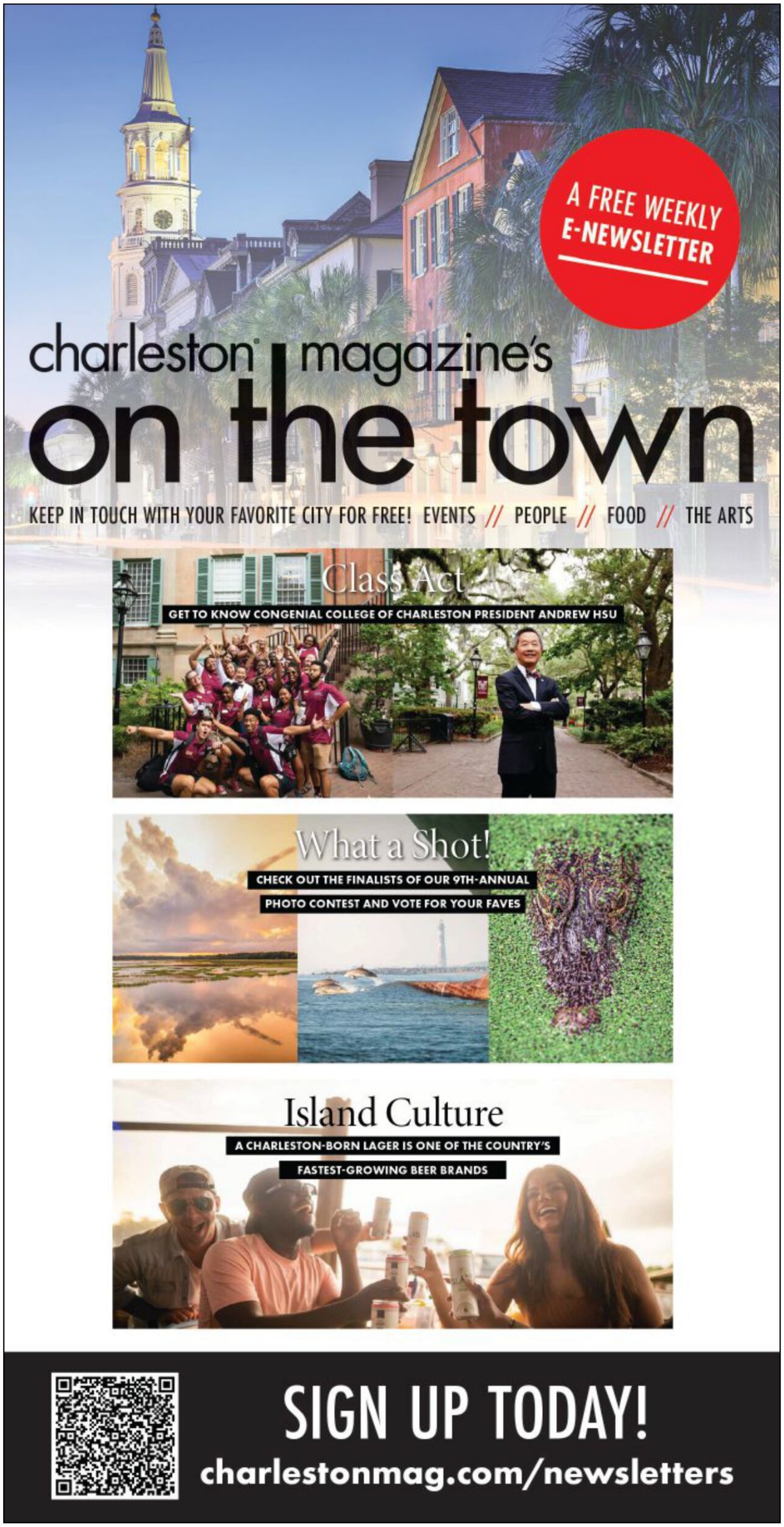
A cozy natural wine haven, Stems & Skins offers an extensive list by the bottle and glass along with spirits, an impressive selection of vermouth, international beers, and small plates of cheeses, charcuterie, Mediterranean-style dishes, tinned seafood, and desserts. *(MS) 1070 E. Montague Ave., (843) 805-4809. $-$$$; D.* 🍸 🌙 ♿ Ⓟ 💬

TATTOOED MOOSE

Think kicked-up creations like duck fat fries, Philly cheesesteak eggs rolls, and perhaps the plumpest chicken wings in the Lowcountry. Don't skip Mike's Famous Duck Club—a triple-decker delight that layers duck confit, bacon, and smoked cheddar between sweet, squishy slices of toasted Hawaiian bread. *(RM) 4845 Chateau Ave., (843) 952-7591. tattooedmoose.com. $-$$; L, D.* ♿ 💬 Ⓟ 🌙

THREE SIRENS

This petite eatery serves a handful of thoughtful plates elevating fresh seafood, such as smoked fish croquettes with red pepper jam and crispy Spanish octopus. The intimate dining room makes for a great date night. Don't forget to save room for rotating desserts. *(HR) 1067 E. Montague Ave., (843) 573-7204, threesirenschs.com. $$-$$$; L, D, Sun. BR.* 🍸 ♿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» Diamonds Direct
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Step out in style with a pair of Italian-made **"Llaria" jelly slides** (**$160**) with Austrian crystal accents, shown in "nude" and available in multiple colors.

» Tara Grinna Swim
234 King St., (843) 779-0770, taragrinna.com

Indulge in the new luxury fragrance **"Mango Skin Eau De Parfum"** (**$150**) by Vilhelm Parfumerie.

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Stay cool in this pretty, cotton **pajama set** (**$84**), shown in "pink lemon."

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Sleep in style on this **custom canopy bed** with brass details (**price upon request**), available in multiple fabrics and finishes.

» Mitchell Hill
414 King St., (843) 577-0400,
mitchellhillinc.com

Designed in collaboration with Gianni Bini and Charleston native Venita Aspen, these multicolor **"Harlow" heels** (**$118**) feature pleated pearl bows.

» **Dillard's at Citadel Mall**
2066 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.,
(843) 556-0080, dillards.com

Designed by David Yurman, these **"Carlyle" linked drop earrings** (**$2,200**) are crafted from sterling silver and 18K yellow gold.

» **Reeds**
1239 Belk Dr.,
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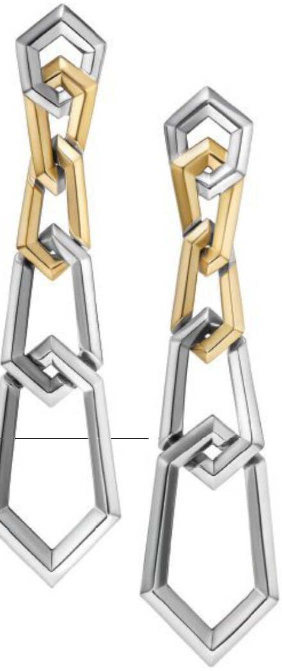
Towne Centre;
(843) 416-3174;
reeds.com



Carry all your essentials in this **jute tote** (**$80**) with floral details.

» **Nellie & Lo**
976 Houston Northcutt Blvd.,
Mount Pleasant; (843) 388-5306;
nellieandlo.com

Ignite kiddos' creativity with this **gourmet grill** (**$160**) playset from Hape.

» **Under the Almond Trees**
190 King St., (843) 937-6144,
underthealmondtrees.com

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This lightweight, floral **"Marisol" blouse** (**$198**) by Johnny Was is petal perfect for spring soirées.

» **Johnny Was at Freshfields Village**
574 Freshfields Dr.,
Kiawah Island;
(843) 800-6374;
johnnywas.com

Keep things organized with a **"Belgravia" bedside table** (**$995**), shown here in "true white" with natural rattan.

» **Steven Shell**
640 Coleman Blvd.,
Mount Pleasant;
(843) 216-3900;
Follow @stevenshellliving

l**it**ve

Fanciful finds for you and your home

Take a step in the right direction with these denim **Jimmy Choo "Bing 65" heels** (**$995**).

» Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant
916 Houston Northcutt Blvd., Mount Pleasant;
(843) 884-9518; gwynns.com

Part of the Mini Collection, this 14K yellow-gold **pendant** (**$3, 150**) features an aquamarine center surrounded by sapphires.

» Croghan's Jewel Box
308 King St., (843) 723-3594,
croghansjeweIbox.com

Paired with an adorable plush **octopus** (**$30**) or **crab** (**$24**), ***Avery Aviator Explores the Sea A to Z*** (**$19**) makes a wonderful addition to any little one's library.

» Under the Almond Trees
190 King St.,
(843) 937-6144,
underthealmondtrees.com

Avery Aviator
Explores the Sea
A to Z

This Italian-made **"Meringue" shirt** (**$259**) is made from 100 percent cotton with a satin finish.

» Shirtini
192 King St.,
(843) 259-5243,
shirtini.com

This leather Moore & Giles **"Booker" duffel bag** (**$895**), shown in "Baldwin Oak," is a travel must-have with lots of room to spare.

» M. Dumas & Sons
294 King St.,
(843) 723-8603,
mdumasandsons.com

Doubling as a piece of art, this **"Meadow" credenza** (**$3, 189**) from Bassett is inspired by an Impressionist painting.

» J&K Home Furnishings
600 Long Point Rd., Mount Pleasant; (843) 800-4015; jkhomefurnishings.com

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Lowcountry couples tie the knot

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Morgan Cox & Blake Hill

(MARCH 4, 2023)

Morgan, a **Holy City native**, was introduced to Blake at Mallard Ball, a sorority function at the University of South Carolina, while the two were students. They reconnected years later and went to a USC basketball game for their first date. Five years later, Blake surprised Morgan with tickets to Salt Lake City. While there, he asked her to marry him against a **snowy backdrop** at the St. Regis hotel. Their wedding and reception were held at Morgan's grandparents' house in Awendaw, complete with music from local singer-songwriter Zach Bedell and a sparkler exit in a **vintage Ford pickup**.

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Plus! Hot tickets—and bites—for Spoleto Festival (see page 124)
charleston
Painting the Town
(Our Annual Arts Issue)
Four passionate locals driving creativity and community
A salute to Charleston Stage founder Julian Wiles
ALEECE SOPHIA

David Gonzalez & Kiira Mendenhall

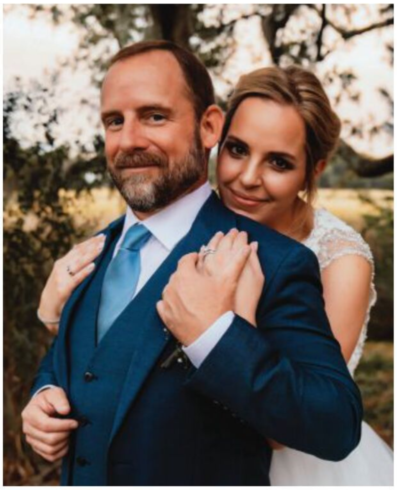
(JANUARY 28, 2023)

Kiira and David bonded while working as ICU nurses at MUSC, making a life together over six years that included co-parenting two children, buying a house in Avondale, and adopting a dog. Early in the morning on July 4, 2021, David pulled out a ring during a walk on **Isle of Palms**. For the ceremony, Kiira donned a custom pink dress, made in collaboration with **local bridal designer Emily Kotarski**, and encouraged guests to wear "sequins, feathers, bold colors, florals, and animal prints." The couple tied the knot at **The Oyster Shed at Leon's**, holding a family-style dinner reception on the patio.

Mary Hamilton & Eli Hayden

(DECEMBER 10, 2022)

MUSC nursing student Mary met Eli through mutual friends playing pickup soccer. The two went surfing for their first outing and made it a regular occurrence during lockdown. While on a trip to **Anchorage, Alaska**, to visit his family, Eli proposed on the highest point of the slopes at Alyeska Ski Resort. Eli and Mary were married at the **Lake House at Bulow** in a ceremony officiated by the friend who initiated their meet-cute soccer story, followed by a reception with a performance by local folk duo **The Letter Show**.



Drew Finnegan & Stephanie Giles

(OCTOBER 2, 2022)

Drew, the president of a local tire company, met Stephanie, a dental office manager, online. They went on their first date at Summerville's **Five Loaves Cafe**, discovering a mutual love of soccer. Five years later, Drew asked Stephanie to be his wife while walking through **downtown Savannah**. The couple, who lives in Mount Pleasant, was wed at Holy City Brewing, crafting their own **Honey Moon Double IPA** for the occasion. Friends and family gathered afterward to watch the sun set over the nearby marsh and dance the night away.

Web EXTRAS **Hearing wedding bells? *Charleston*** would love to know. If you currently live or grew up in the Charleston area, were married within the past eight months, and would like to see your announcement run, please visit **charlestonmag.com** to submit your wedding information and photographs. Due to space constraints, inclusion is not guaranteed.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) ALICE KEENEY, ANNA NEWSOM, & ISABEL GOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

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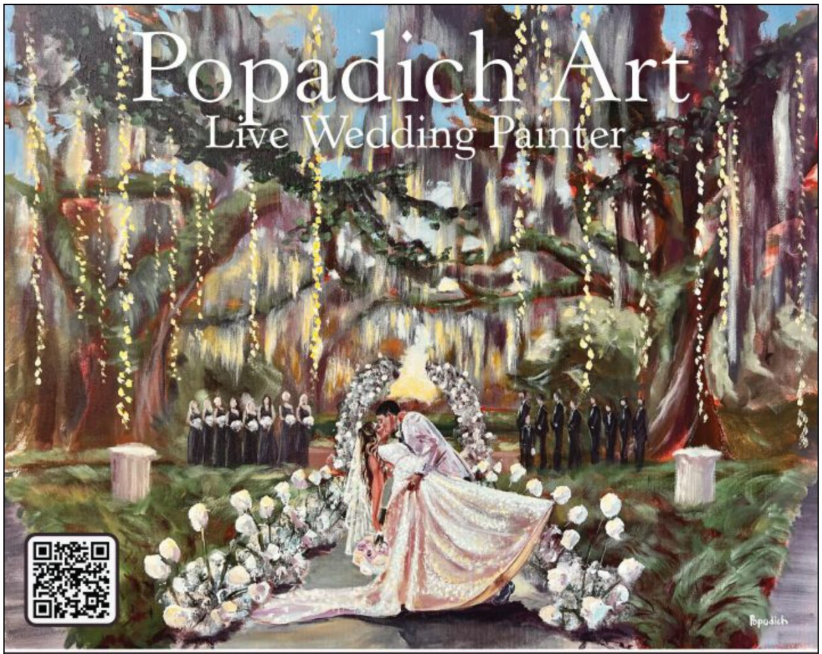
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The Post and Courier CHARLESTON'S choice 2022 WINNER

ALEECE SOPHIA

ALEECE SOPHIA PHOTOGRAPHY
ALEECESOPHIA.COM

Ben Bartlett, Victoria Dhindsa, Ryan Goer, and Tej Dhindsa

Bert and Martha Jane Hudnall with Gus and Andralee Bright

Guests mingled under a star-studded tent in the Gibbes Museum of Art's Lenhardt Garden.

(fête set)

SOCIETY 1858 WINTER PARTY

February 11, 2023

The Party: Partygoers enjoyed a memorable evening in the Gibbes Museum of Art's Lenhardt Garden and Almeda Lecture Hall during this annual soirée. Dressed in artful black-tie attire, guests mingled under a dazzling, star-filled tent and gathered for photo ops in the museum's Alfred Heber Hutty Studio. An array of appetizers were provided by Harvest Catering, with signature drinks from Squeeze Cocktails, featuring Cathead Vodka and Blade & Bow Bourbon. Proceeds from the event and art auction help sustain the 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art, which awards $10,000 to an artist whose work contributes significantly to art in the South. This year's winner was Raheleh Filsoofi, an Iranian-born, multidisciplinary artist based in Tennessee. Named for the year the Gibbes began its art collection, Society 1858 provides social and educational programs tailored for up-and-coming art patrons.

Highlight: Snapping chic black-and-white pics in the photo booth with local photographer Cameron Wilder

Beneficiary: Society 1858

—Blair Soden

PHOTOGRAPHS (7) BY BLAIR SODEN

Stewart Thomason, Mark and Megan Waligora, Matt Freeman, Corbin Henderson, and Julie Livingston

Teeny Morrison and Whitney Stoddard

Paul and Will Cannon with John McClain

The Mike Quinn Band kept everyone on the dance floor.

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Kelly Durrette, owner of The Showroom Charleston, wowed the crowd with her Lady Gaga mash-up.

Crystal DeMey sang Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" live onstage.

LIP SYNC FOR LUNGS, LIVE BATTLE VII

February 16, 2023

The Party: Charleston Music Hall hosted the American Lung Association's seventh-annual Lip Sync for Lungs, featuring costumed local celebrities. A panel of judges, including singer LaFaye Benton and last year's winner Kyle "K'Otic" Johnson, crowned duo Francesca DiSalvo-Follmer and Drew Pond as this year's battle champions for their "mystery mash-up." Proceeds benefitted the American Lung Association, which works to save lives by improving lung health through research, advocacy, and outreach.

Overheard: "I truly felt like Whitney Houston was with us just now."—judge Geoff Richardson

Beneficiary: The American Lung Association

—*Caroline Lamm*

Francesca DiSalvo-Follmer and Drew Pond were named the 2023 Live Battle VII Champions.

Lip Sync For Lungs Live Battle VII celebrity performers took the stage as the winner was announced.

Crystal DeMey captivated the audience with live vocals before going into her lip-sync performance.

Tracey McDaniels-Miller, Susan Butler, Bill McDaniels, and Lori DeNicola

PHOTOGRAPHS (6) BY VALERIE & ED PHOTOGRAPHY

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Wood-fired oysters on the half shell by Kiawah Island Golf Resort chef Jeff Cali

Cory Robinson and Steven Aro at An Epicurean Affair

GOURMET & GRAPES

February 2-5, 2023

The Party: This multi-day culinary celebration at Kiawah Island Golf Resort featured award-winning chefs and wineries from around the world. Highlights ranged from the casual Gourmet & Grain event at Mingo Point, an outdoor barbecue and bourbon mash-up overlooking the Kiawah River, to a multicourse dinner exploring the flavors of India prepared by James Beard award winner Chintan Pandya. Held at The Sanctuary, the Wine Odyssey Gala featured live and silent auctions, raising more than $1.2 million for lifesaving cancer research and patient support at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center.

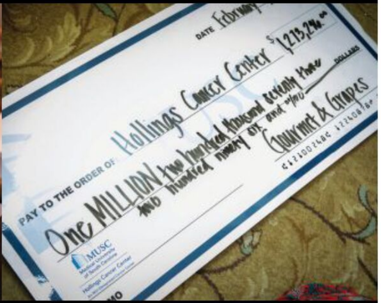
Highlight: Friday's An Epicurean Affair hosted by James Beard Award-winning chef Chintan Pandya

Beneficiary: MUSC Hollings Cancer Center

Restaurateur Roni Mazumdar, The Sanctuary manager Bill Lacey, and chef Chintan Pandya

Guests celebrate at the live auction during Saturday's Wine Odyssey Gala.

Ellen and Craig Lockhart



Proceeds benefitted the MUSC Hollings Cancer Center.

PHOTOGRAPHS (6) BY JUSTIN FALK PHOTOGRAPHY

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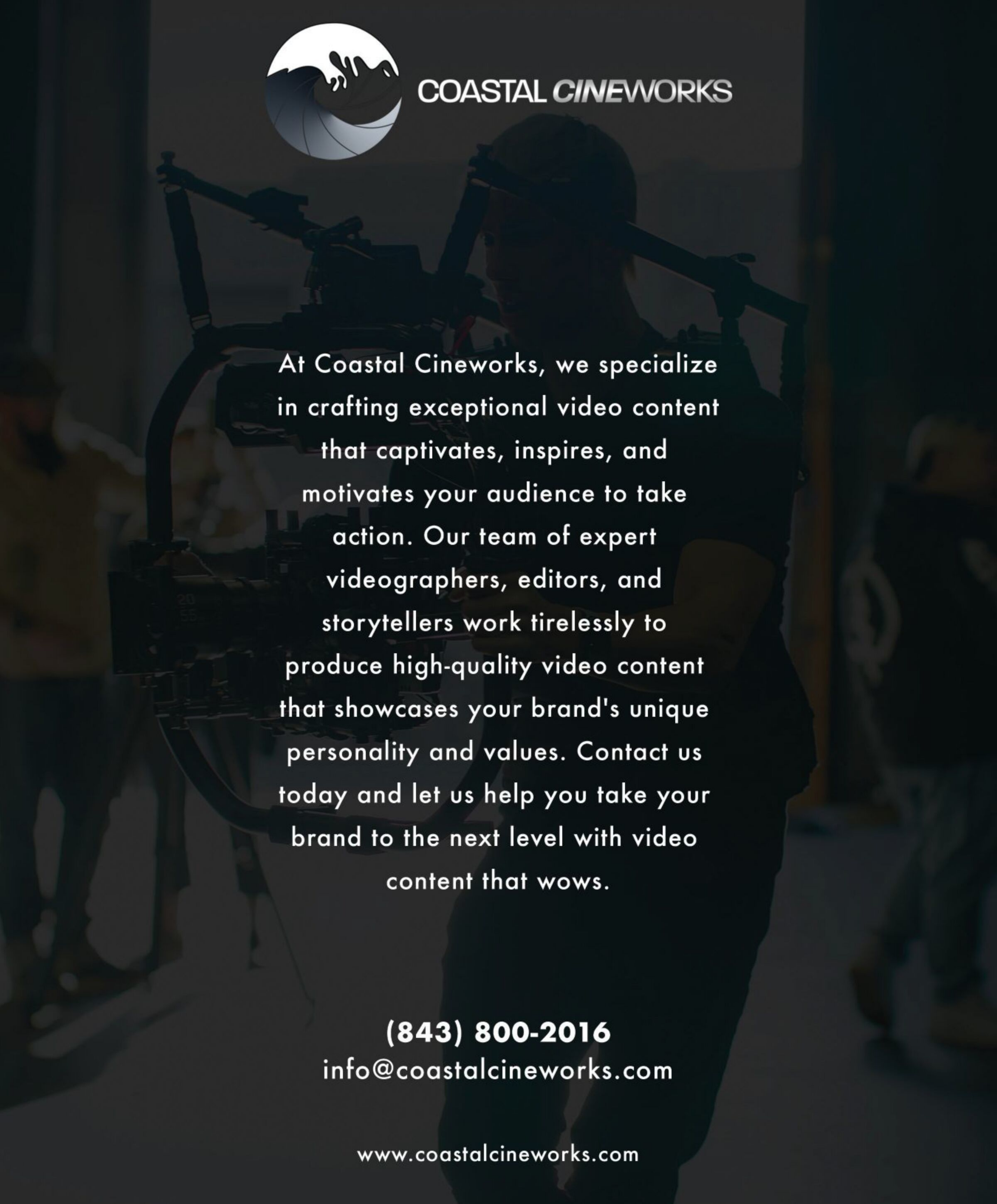

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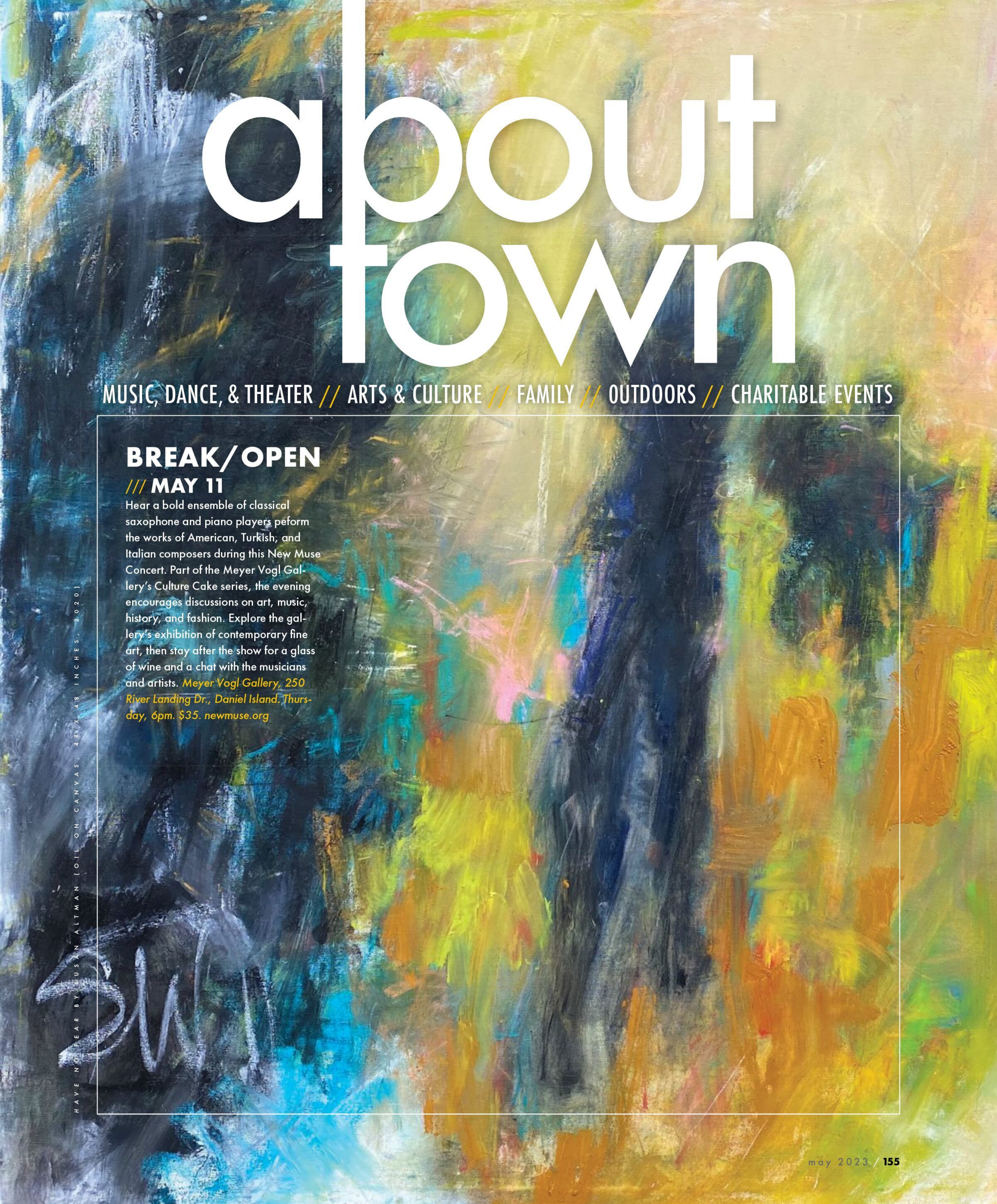


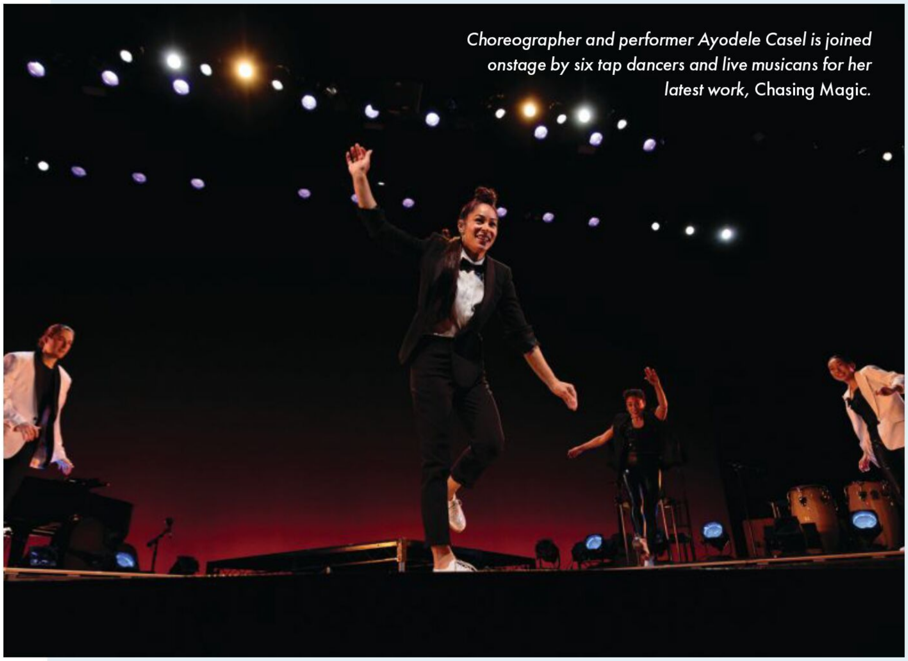
HAVE NO FEAR BY SUSAN ALTMAN [OIL ON CANVAS, 48 X 48 INCHES, 2020]

BREAK/OPEN

/// MAY 11

Hear a bold ensemble of classical saxophone and piano players peform the works of American, Turkish, and Italian composers during this New Muse Concert. Part of the Meyer Vogl Gallery's Culture Cake series, the evening encourages discussions on art, music, history, and fashion. Explore the gallery's exhibition of contemporary fine art, then stay after the show for a glass of wine and a chat with the musicians and artists. *Meyer Vogl Gallery, 250 River Landing Dr., Daniel Island. Thursday, 6pm. $35. newmuse.org*

Spoleto Festival USA



Choreographer and performer Ayodele Casel is joined onstage by six tap dancers and live musicans for her latest work, Chasing Magic.

BANK OF AMERICA CHAMBER MUSIC /// MAY 26-31

One of Spoleto's signature series, this classical music presentation offers 11 programs with pieces ranging from the pre-17th century to modern works. Musical artists include Alisa Weilerstein, Inon Barnatan, and Alexi Kenney. *Dock Street Theatre, 135 Church St. Daily, 11am & 1pm. $93-$57. (843)577-7183, spoletousa.org*

CELEBRATING GEOFF NUTTALL /// MAY 26

Celebrate the legacy of Spoleto's late director of chamber music during a memorial concert featuring the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra and musical guests. Program highlights include Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor* and Edward Elgar's *Salut d'Amour.* A soirée benefiting the Geoff Nuttall Legacy Fund will be held immediately afterward at the President's House at the College of Charleston, featuring light bites, cocktails, and live entertainment. *Charleston Gaillard Center, 95 Calhoun St. Friday, 7-9pm. $103-$68, soirée tickets $1,500-$1,000. (843)242-3099, spoletousa.org*

AN ILIAD /// MAY 25, 27, 28, 30, & 31

This radical retelling of Homer's epic poem stars Tony Award-winning actor Denis O'Hare of *American Horror Story* fame. Experience what *Time Out New York* calls "pure theater: shocking, glorious, primal, and deeply satisfying." *Dock Street Theatre, 135 Church St. Thursday-Wednesday, times vary. $103-$33. (843)577-7183, spoletousa.org*

A POET'S LOVE /// MAY 26, 27, 29, & 30

Having dazzled last year in the title role of *Omar*, tenor Jamez McCorkle returns to the Spoleto stage for Robert Schumann's tragic romance, *Dichterliebe*. McCorkle will sing and accompany himself on piano, with projections from award-winning artist Miwa Matreyek. Catch an interview between McCorkle and CBS News correspondent Martha Teichner on May 28 at 3 p.m. *Queen Street Playhouse, 20 Queen St. Days & times vary. $30-$35. (843)722-4487, spoletousa.org*

Ebony Bones, an English singer-songwriter, model, actress, and producer, makes her Spoleto Festival USA debut this year.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (AYODELE CASEL) TONY TURNER & COURTESY OF (EBONY BONES) SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

Platinum-selling bluegrass group Nickel Creek will play the Cistern Yard as part of a two-night reunion.

SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA CHORUS & ORCHESTRA: HANDEL'S *DIXIT DOMINUS*

/// MAY 30

Featuring 24 musicians from the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra with the full Festival Chorus, this program celebrates two iconic Baroque works, pairing composer George Frideric Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with Henry Purcell's *Te Deum Laudamus and Jubilate*. *College of Charleston Sottile Theatre, 44 George St. Tuesday, 5pm. $88-$44. (843)953-6340, spoletousa.org*

NICKEL CREEK

/// MAY 31 & JUNE 1

This platinum-selling trio creates a progressive blend of acoustic roots, folk, and "newgrass." Siblings Sara and Sean Watkins reunite with mandolin player Chris Thile, who last played Spoleto in 2019 with the Punch Brothers, for this long-awaited two-night reunion tour. Tickets for Thursday night performance are sold out. *College of Charleston Cistern Yard, 71 George St. Wednesday, 9pm. $78-$57. (843)805-5507, spoletousa.org*

EBONY BONES

/// MAY 26

Billed as "disco-punk meets high couture," Ebony Bones blends elements of Afrobeat, classical, and pop music to create her own distinct sound. See the visionary artist and producer make her Spoleto debut, backed by the Bones Orchestra. *College of Charleston Cistern Yard, 71 George St. Friday, 9pm. $68-$30. (843)805-5507, spoletousa.org*

AYODELE CASEL: *CHASING MAGIC*

/// MAY 27-29

Famous for her wickedly fast feet, choreographer Ayodele Casel returns to Spoleto with her latest exuberant work, *Chasing Magic*. Casel is joined onstage by six tap dancers and a group of live musicians, including jazz virtuoso and 2023 Grammy Award-winner Arturo O'Farrill. *College of Charleston Cistern Yard, 71 George St. Saturday, 7:30pm; Sunday, 2 & 6pm; & Monday, 2pm. $98-$44. (843)805-5507, spoletousa.org*

QUENTIN BAXTER QUINTET

/// MAY 27

Grammy-winning drummer and Spoleto veteran Quentin Baxter leads an ensemble band of musicians, including trumpeter Charlton Singleton, during this rollicking homecoming concert. Hear modern jazz classics and original compositions infused with Gullah oral traditions. *College of Charleston Cistern Yard, 71 George St. Saturday, 9pm. $68-$44. (843)805-5507, spoletousa.org*

VANESSA

/// MAY 27 & 29

With a Pulitzer Prize-winning lyrical score from composer Samuel Barber, this emotional drama explores complicated relationships and regret. Operatic superstar Nicole Heaston portrays the titular character, who pines for her lover Anatol for 20 years. *Charleston Gaillard Center, 95 Calhoun St. Saturday & Monday, 7pm. $183-$53. (843)242-3099, spoletousa.org*

The Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra performs pieces dating from the pre-17th century to today during the Bank of America Chamber Music series.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA ORCHESTRA) LEIGH WEBBER & COURTESY OF (NICKEL CREEK) SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

music, dance, & theater

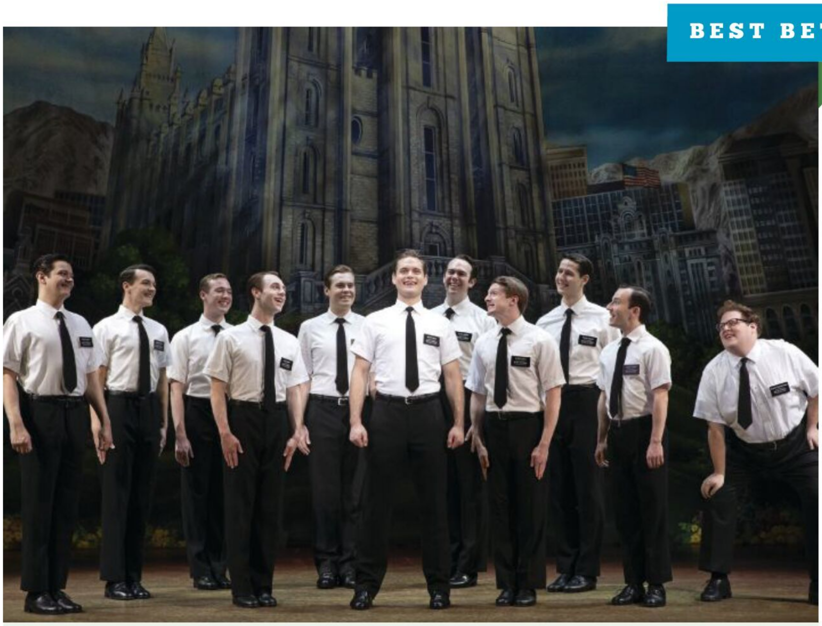
BARREL PROOF
/// MAY 3

Holy City-based jazz band Barrel Proof performs an evening of original songs, headed by bassist Brett Belanger. The group also includes local percussionist Ron Wiltrout and saxophonist Robert Lewis, director of Charleston Jazz Orchestra. *Forte Jazz Lounge, 477 King St. Wednesday, 7-10pm. $30-$20. (843)637-4931, fortejazzlounge.com*

COMPULSION: OR THE HOUSE BEHIND
/// MAY 4-6 & 11-13

Directed by Pure Theatre's Sharon Graci, this drama explores the value and ownership of art and stories. Protagonist Sid Silver's attempts to publish an English-language edition and stage adaptation of Anne Frank's diary become an obsession when his vision clashes with publishers and producers. *PURE Theatre, 134 Cannon St. Days & times vary. $30. (843)723-4444, puretheatre.org*

BEST BET



THE BOOK OF MORMON
/// MAY 5-7

The nine-time Tony Award-winning comedy hits the Lowcountry, following two young missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as they are sent to a remote Ugandan village to spread the "Good Word." The international sensation has been dubbed "the best musical of the century" by *The New York Times*, featuring iconic songs such as "I Believe" and "Spooky Mormon Hell Dream." *North Charleston Performing Arts Center, 5001 Coliseum Dr. Friday-Sunday, times vary. $87-$47. (843)529-5000, northcharlestoncoliseumpac.com*

BEST BET

JAMIE MCLEAN BAND
/// MAY 9

Fronted by songwriter Jamie McLean, this group creates a self-described "musical gumbo" with elements of Delta blues. Hear McLean's soulful Southern vocals on songs from his upcoming album, *One and Only*. *Charleston Pour House, 1977 Maybank Hwy. Tuesday, 6pm. $10. (843)571-4343, charlestonpourhouse.com*

MONTY PYTHON'S *SPAMALOT*
/// MAY 5 & 6

Adapted from the 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, this quirky comedy follows King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they venture forth to discover the Holy Grail. The Tony-winning musical is chock-full of slapstick, audience participation, and killer rabbits. *Queen Street Playhouse, 20 Queen St. Days & times vary. $48-$34. (843)722-4487, footlightplayers.net*

WIDESPREAD PANIC
/// MAY 5 & 6

Blues-inspired rock band Widespread Panic has had a dedicated following since the early '80s. The group returns to Charleston with a two-night set featuring local synthwave project Doom Flamingo on Friday and Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country on Saturday. *Credit One Stadium, 161 Seven Farms Dr., Daniel Island. Friday & Saturday, $73-$33. (843)856-7900, creditonestadium.com*

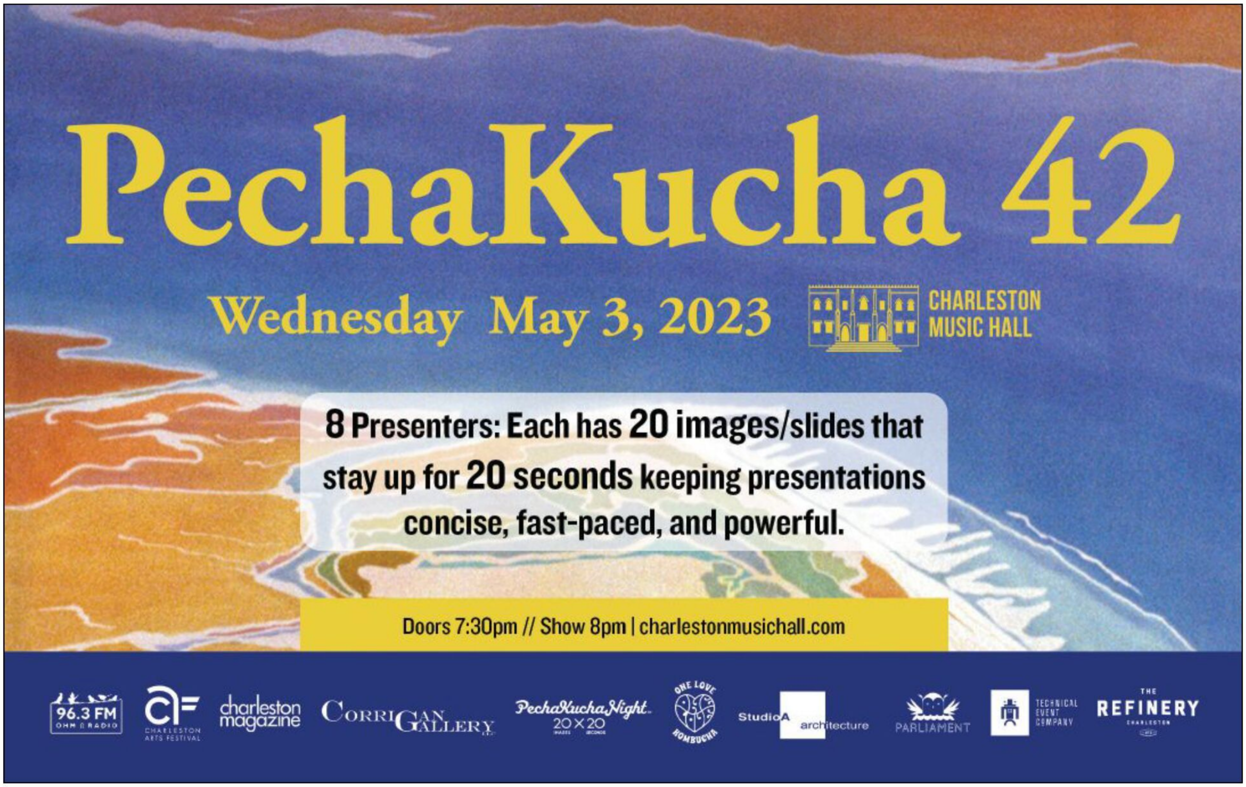
HITCHCOCK
/// MAY 6

Produced by 34 West, this show pays homage to the witty and macabre radio shows produced by legendary director Alfred Hitchcock. Follow a quick-changing, three-person cast as they portray numerous characters from Hitchcock's filmography. Described as "brimming with wit and parody," this show encourages crowd interaction. *34 West Theater Company, 200 Meeting St. #100. Thursday-Saturday, 8pm. $49. (843)901-9343, 34west.org*

***FULL CIRCLE* ALBUM RELEASE PARTY**
/// MAY 7

Local guitarist Grace McNally celebrates the release of her debut album during this collaborative concert. *Full Circle* creates a musical narrative of rustic Southern traditional music and folk songs, inspired by McNally's travels to Central and South America. Special guests on the album, described as "a love letter to Charleston," include Gullah acapella group The Plantation Singers, former poet laureate Marcus Amaker, and vocalist Gino Castillo. *First Baptist Church, 61 Church St. Sunday, 7pm. $20. 843-722-3896, fbcharelston.org*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (JAMIE MCLEAN) EVAN FELTS & COURTESY OF (THE BOOK OF MORMON) THE NORTH CHARLESTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



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INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ NIGHT

/// MAY 10

The Forte Jazz Lounge's Brett Belanger Trio plays a night of jazz standards with special guest Sara Zhu, a flutist based out of Washington, DC. Zhu is known for improvisation and blending jazz with indie folk, R&B, and pop arrangements. *Forte Jazz Lounge, 477 King St. Wednesday, 7-10pm. $30-$20. (843)637-4931, fortejazzlounge.com*

ALICE COOPER: "TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT"

/// MAY 15

The godfather of shock rock delivers an explosive concert, drawing from a discography spanning more than five decades. Guitarist Nita Strauss rejoins the band for this North American tour. *North Charleston Performing Arts Center, 5001 Coliseum Dr. Monday, 8pm. $247-$56. (843)529-5000, northcharlestoncoliseumpac.com*

HUNTER HAYES: "RED SKY"

/// MAY 16

Nashville-based singer Hunter Hayes announced an extensive US tour earlier this year to support his latest album, *Red Sky*. Hayes crafts memorable melodies and instantly catchy hooks on hits like "Tell Me" and "I Want Crazy." *Charleston Music Hall, 37 John St. Tuesday, 8pm. $50-$35. (843)8532252, charlestonmusichall.com*

TOM JONES: "AGES & STAGES"

/// MAY 17

The legendary showman continues his spring transatlantic tour promoting his latest album, *Surrounded by Time*. Keep an ear out for unmistakable classics from the Welsh baritone, including "She's a Lady" and "It's Not Unusual." *North Charleston Performing Arts Center, 5001 Coliseum Dr. Wednesday, 8pm. $247-$72. (843)529-5000, northcharlestoncoliseumpac.com*

DRUSKI

/// MAY 19

Performing as part of Chucktown Comedy Week, this comedian and Internet personality has carved a niche for himself online through sketch comedy and collaborating with the likes of Jack Harlow and Drake. *North Charleston Performing Arts Center, 5001 Coliseum Dr. Friday, 8pm. $150-$40. (843)529-5000, northcharlestoncoliseumpac.com*

BEST BET

NATE BARGATZE: "BE FUNNY"

/// MAY 20 & 21

Having previously appeared on *Light Night with Conan O'Brien* and *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, Nashville-based comedian Nate Bargatze continues his 2023 tour. Part of Chucktown Comedy Week, the two-night set features the comedian's trademark delivery that earned him the moniker of "The Nicest Man in Stand-Up." *North Charleston Performing Arts Center, 5001 Coliseum Dr. Saturday & Sunday, 8pm. $66-$36. (843)529-5000, northcharlestoncoliseumpac.com*

BEST BET

SUMMER SAMBA CHARLESTON JAZZ

/// MAY 13

The Charleston Jazz Orchestra presents a vibrant celebration of Brazilian jazz, bossa nova, and big band music. Special guests include local vocalist Alva Anderson, singer Heather Rice, and Brazilian guitarist Duda Lucena (pictured). *Charleston Music Hall, 37 John St. Saturday, 5 & 8pm. $64-$10. (843)641-0011, charlestonjazz.com*

KOUNTRY WAYNE: "HELP IS ON THE WAY"

/// MAY 20

Named one of *Variety*'s "10 Comics to Watch in 2021," Kountry Wayne delivers clean comedy for the whole family. Since going viral in 2014, the comedian has garnered a loyal following for his popular digital sketches featuring original characters and celebrity cameos from the likes of Ludacris, Charlamagne tha God, and Lamar Odom. *Charleston Music Hall, 37 John St. Saturday, 7pm. $78-$38. (843)853-2252, charlestonmusichall.com*

DIALOGUES

/// MAY 21

Presented by New Muse Concerts, this alfresco performance features pieces of music that

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF (SUMMER SAMBA) DUDA LUCENA & (NATE BARGATZE) THE NORTH CHARLESTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

examine the relationship between composers and their audiences and instruments, including works by Gioachino Rossini, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Benjamin Britten. *Hampton Park, 30 Murray Dr. Sunday, 10am-1pm. Free. newmuse.org*

KENNY CHESNEY: "I GO BACK"

/// MAY 25

The multiplatinum country artist—known for megahits such as "When the Sun Goes Down," and "American Kids"—is joined by special guest Kelsea Ballerini on his latest North American tour. *Credit One Stadium, 161 Seven Farms Dr., Daniel Island. Thursday, 7:30pm. $240-$111. (843)856-7900, creditonestadium.com*

LIVE AT FIREFLY: RYAN ADAMS & THE CARDINALS

/// MAY 26

Firefly Distillery hosts alternative country singer-songwriter Ryan Adams and his American rock

BEST BET

"ELIZA LUCAS PINCKNEY"

/// THROUGH JULY 9

For a limited time, see a silk gown worn by Eliza Lucas Pinckney, a woman famous for revolutionizing colonial agriculture in South Carolina through her influence on the indigo industry, at The Charleston Museum. In honor of the museum's 250th anniversary, the delicate garment will be exhibited in the Loeblein Silver Gallery, along with other personal items. *The Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting St. Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sunday, noon-5pm. $18-$5. (843)722-2996, charlestonmuseum.org*

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band, The Cardinals, formed in 2004. New this year, Firefly offers a dedicated Bend & Steal Whiskey bar featuring specialty cocktails, in addition to beer and fare from local food trucks. *Firefly Distillery, 4201 Spruill Ave., North Charleston. Friday, 7pm. $60. (843)557-1405, fireflydistillery.com*

CHARLESTON PLAYHOUSE'S BROADWAY CABARET SERIES
/// MAY 28
Sponsored by the College of Charleston Department of Theatre and Dance, this series features music and storytelling from regional performers. This month's featured guest is Charleston-based dancer, vocalist, and educator Clyde Moser, who has performed in *RENT* and *Spring Awakening*. *Chapel Theatre, 172 Calhoun St. Sunday, 3pm. $40. (843)953-4726, charlestonplayhouse.com/events*

arts & culture

"AMERICA'S FIRST MUSEUM: 250 YEARS OF COLLECTING, PRESERVING, & EDUCATING"
/// THROUGH JUNE 4
This yearlong exhibit from The Charleston Museum features an array of historical objects, including items from ancient Rome and the Colonial period. *The Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting St. Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sunday, noon-5pm. $18-$5. (843)722-2996, charlestonmuseum.org*

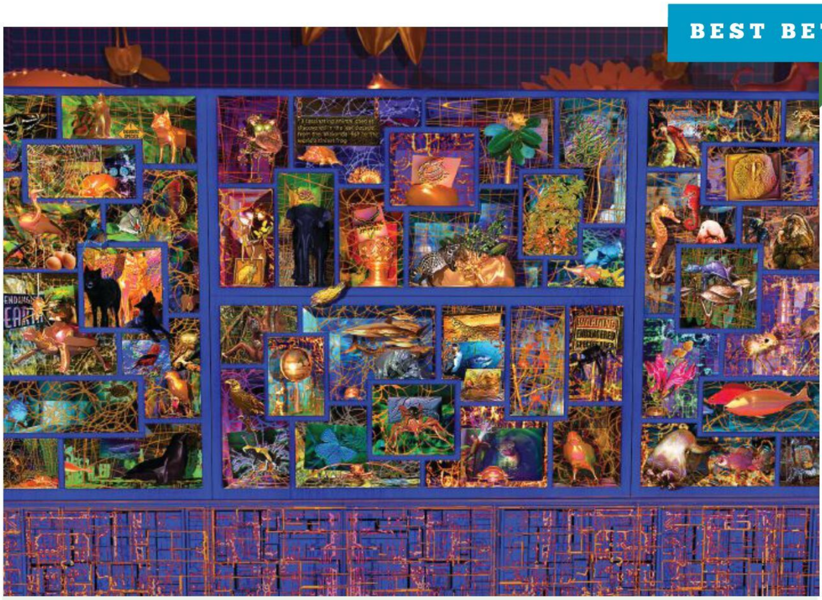
"BEVERLY MCIVER: FULL CIRCLE"
/// THROUGH AUGUST 6
This exhibition of large-scale paintings reveals the personal journey and career evolution of Durham-based artist Beverly McIver. More than 50 pieces, including bold paintings and mixed-media works, from the past 25 years will be on display, examining ways of masking identity, stereotypes, and expressing individuality. *Gibbes Museum of Art, 135 Meeting St. Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday, 1-5pm. $12-$6. (843)722-2706, gibbesmuseum.org*

PECHAKUCHA 42
/// MAY 3
Coming from the Japanese word for "chit-chat," PechaKucha is a series of rapid-fire presentations from an array of local creatives. Presenters have approximately seven minutes to discuss 20 specific images related to their profession for 20 seconds each. Presented by Charleston Arts Festival, this 42nd iteration will feature Polly Buxton, owner

BEST BET

"INTERWOVEN"
/// THROUGH MAY 20
This solo exhibit from Columbia-based artist Jordan Sheridan transforms the main Redux gallery with a series of paintings and other multimedia pieces that explore her personal experiences with motherhood. *Redux Contemporary Art Center, 1056 King St. Tuesday-Friday, 11am–5pm & Saturday, noon–3pm. $30-$25.(843)722-0697, reduxstudios.org*

BEST BET



"WWWUNDERKAMMER"
/// MAY 19-JULY 15
Presented by the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, this gallery installation from New York-based artist Carla Gannis uses augmented reality to explore what it means to be a human in the Internet age. The exhibit uses graphic displays of light and color to examine elements of contemporary life, such as technology, self-perception, language, and the environment. An opening reception will be held on May 19 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. *Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, 161 Calhoun St., Monday-Saturday, 11am-4pm; Thursday, 11am-7pm. Free. (843)953-4422, halsey.cofc.edu*

THE MOTHER BY JORDAN SHERIDAN (TEXTILE INSTALLATION, 2022) & WWWUNDERKAMMER BY CARLA GANNIS (SOCIAL VR EXPERIENCE, 2020-ONGOING)

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NORTH CHARLESTON ARTS FEST

/// MAY 3-7

This five-day festival highlights regional and local artists, showcasing hundreds of works of fine arts and crafts and photography, as well as music, dance, and theater performances. The North Charleston Arts Festival, which began as a one-day community event in Park Circle, is celebrating its 40th year. *Locations & times vary. Free. (843)740-5854, northcharlestonartsfest.com*

UNWINED WITH WATERCOLOR

/// MAY 9

Relax with an evening of wine and painting at the Redux Contemporary Art Center, where local collage and watercolor artist Anna Chen hosts a happy hour for beginner and expert painters alike. Participants will recieve guidance from Chen, watercolor materials, and a glass of wine, but may bring additional beverages from home. *Redux Contemporary Art Center, 1056 King St. Tuesday, 6-8pm. $40; $30 members. (843)722-0697, reduxstudios.org*

INTRODUCTION TO BOOKBINDING

/// MAY 12

The Charleston Library Society hosts resident bookbinder James Davis for this workshop that allows guests to craft their own journal to take home. Materials, including paper, board, and threads, will be provided to students, who will be instructed on the techniques and practices of bookbinding. Davis will also discuss the history of the practice, as well as conservation techniques used to preserve books in local museums and libraries. *Charleston Library Society, 164 King St. Friday, 9am-1:30pm. $325; $275 for members. (843)723-9912, charlestonlibrarysociety.org*

of Buxton Books; artist and environmental activist Mary Edna Fraser; Alliance for Full Acceptance executive director Chase Glenn; and tattoo artist Ashley McMullen, among others. *Charleston Music Hall, 37 John St. Wednesday, 8pm. $14-$12. (843)853-2252, charlestonmusichall.com*

"PORTRAITS OF LANDSCAPE"

/// MAY 5-31

Corrigan Gallery presents the first major display of landscape works by Nigel Parry, a renowned portrait photographer. Parry's work has been exhibited worldwide, including at The National Portrait Gallery in London, The National Museum of Film & Photography, and the Cannes Film Festival. An opening reception will be held on May 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. *Corrigan Gallery, 38 Queen Street. Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm. Free. (843)722-9868, corrigangallery.com*

"SEEDS OF INSPIRATION"

/// MAY 5-31

Robert Lange Studios presents this group exhibition designed to show the evolution of a painting from conception to completion. Participating artists, including Julie Beck, Megan Aline, and Dakota Pitts, were tasked with creating a small study and corresponding finished larger work. *Robert Lange Studios, 2 Queen St. Daily, 11am-5pm. Free. (843)805-8052, robertlangestudios.com*

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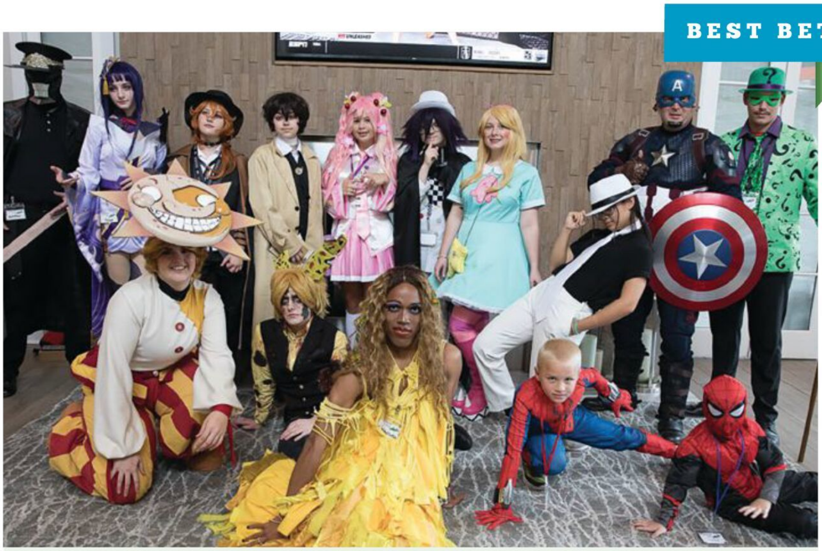

ATOMACON

/// MAY 5-7

The ninth-annual Atomacon returns to Charleston, celebrating science fiction and pop culture. The three-day event features cosplay contests and informational panels on paranormal studies, art, music, literature, filmmaking, and fandoms such as *Star Trek*, *Dr. Who*, and the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Browse dozens of vendor booths for apparel, collectibles, toys, and more, and speak with guests such as award-winning local playwright Michael Smallwood and *Star Wars: Women of the Galaxy* author Amy Ratcliffe. *5275 International Blvd., North Charleston. Friday, 5-11pm; Saturday, 10am-11pm; Sunday, 10am-3pm. $40-$20. (843)308-9330, atomacon.org*

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF NORTH CHARLESTON ARTS FEST & ATOMACON

BEST BET

GARDEN STROLL & WINE TASTINGS AT MIDDLETON PLACE

/// MAY 3 & 10

Take in historic Middleton Place with a drink in hand. The 18th-century rice plantation is home to America's oldest landscaped gardens, offering beautiful views of flora and fauna alongside the Ashley River. *Middleton Place, 4300 Ashley River Rd., Charleston. Wednesday, 5:30-7:30pm. $35. (843)556-6020, middletonplace.org*

THAT BIG BOOK SALE

/// MAY 19-21

Charleston Friends of the Library hosts That BIG Book Sale. Browse books for all ages on a variety of topic, with prices starting at $1 and half-price items on Sunday. *Omar Shrine Auditorium, 176 Patriots Point Rd. Friday-Sunday, times vary. Free. (843) 805-6882, charlestonlibraryfriends.org*

"CHECK IT"

/// MAY 20

Hed Hi Studio welcomes artists Andy Davis and Jon Wegener for a celebration of surf culture. Davis is known for creating whimsical depictions of surf scenes that reflect the laid-back and colorful lifestyle of his Encinitas, California, home. Wegener has built a reputation for shaping and designing surfboards, also creating bowls and sculptures from traditional woods. *Hed Hi Studio, 654 King St. Saturday, 10am-4pm & Sunday, noon-2pm. Free. (844)866-0020, hedhistudio.com*

family

CHARLESTON RIVERDOGS GAMES

/// MAY 2-7 & 16-21

The RiverDogs continue their 2023 season with

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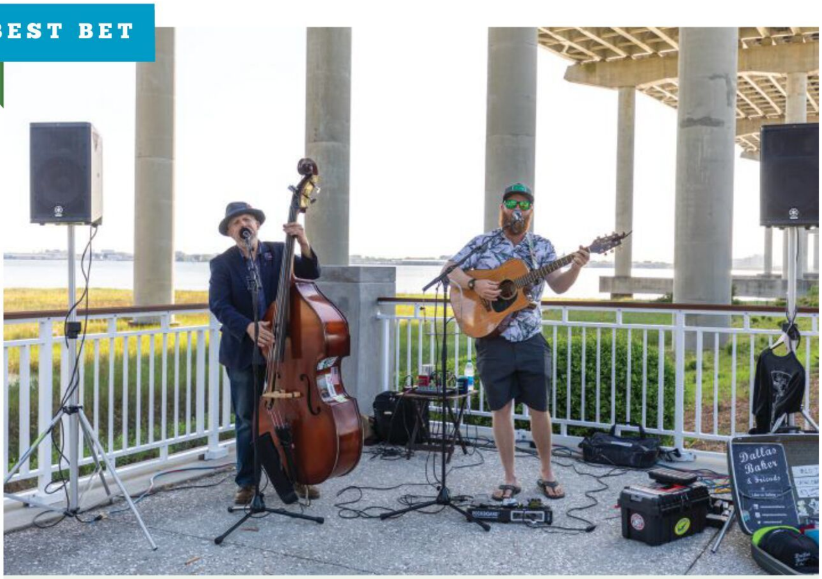

CHEERS ON THE PIER

/// MAY 4

Soak in sunset views at the Mount Pleasant Pier all while enjoying live music from TNT Duo. Bring chairs and blankets to secure a spot, and purchase sandwiches, ice cream, and craft beer at the pier's River Watch Cafe. *71 Harry M. Hallman Jr. Blvd., Mount Pleasant. Thursday, 5:30-7:30pm. Free. (843)762-9946, ccrpc.com*

outdoors

MOUNT PLEASANT FARMERS MARKET

/// MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

Score fresh finds outside Moultrie Middle School on Tuesdays. Check the seasonal crop calendar online for farmer offerings, and browse baked goods, butcher cuts, homemade preserves, and other goodies. *Mount Pleasant Farmers Market Pavilion, 645 Coleman Blvd., Mount Pleasant. Tuesdays, 3:30-7pm. Free. (843)884-8517, experiencemountpleasant.com*

WEST ASHLEY FARMERS MARKET

/// MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

Discover local vendors offering artisanal food products, including cheese, pasta, honey, hot sauce, and more, as well as fresh fruits and veggies, on Wednesdays at Ackerman Park. Grab a bite to eat from rotating food trucks and take advantage of live local bands. *Ackerman Park, 55 Sycamore Ave. Wednesdays, 3-7pm. Free. (843)724-7305, charlestonfarmersmarket.com/westashley*

home games against the Lynchburg Hellcats and the Delmarva Shorebirds. Cheer on the local team at The Joe while enjoying a scoop of ice cream, slice of pizza, or some boiled peanuts. *Joseph P. Riley Jr. Stadium, 360 Fishburne St. Days & times vary. $110-$8. (843)577-3647, milb.com/charleston*

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

/// MAY 5

Part of the annual North Charleston Arts Festival, this action-packed day of fun includes music, arts and crafts, games, inflatables, and musical performances. Attendees are encouraged to don groovy get-ups or dress up in tie-dye attire to match this year's theme. *Charleston County School District Regional Stadium, 3659 W. Montague Ave., North Charleston. Friday, 9am-1pm. Free. (843)740-5803, northcharlestonartsfest.com*

TEDDY BEAR TEA

/// MAY 13

Families with young children are invited to take part in a whimsical tea party picnic. Little ones should bring their favorite stuffed animals to enjoy snacks, arts and crafts, and other activities, while grownups relax with adult beverages at the bar. *Sweetgrass Inn at Wild Dunes Resort, 5757 Palm Blvd., Isle of Palms. Saturday, 11am-12pm. $45. (866)359-5593, charlestoncvb.com*

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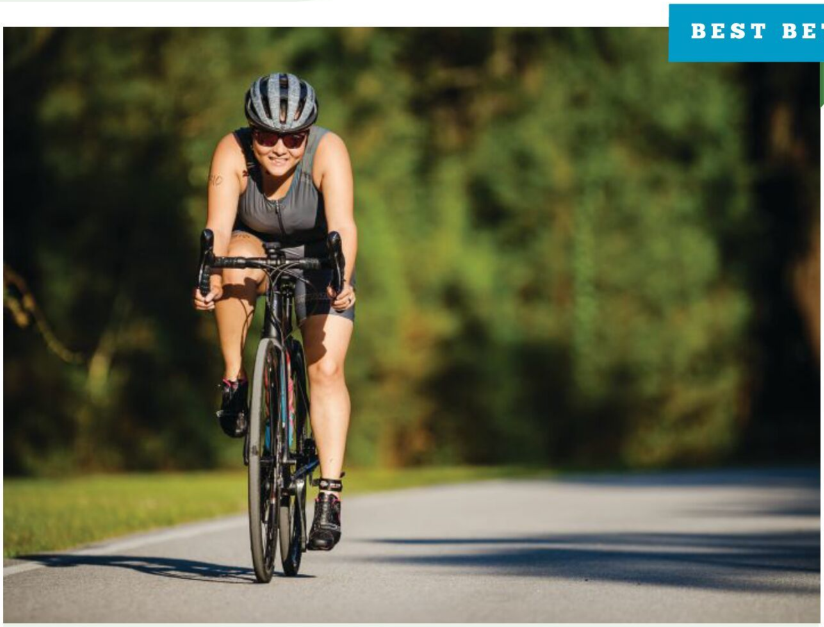

CHARLESTON SPRINT TRIATHLON SERIES

/// MAY 21

Since 2017, more than 30,000 racers have competed in the Charleston Sprint Triathlon series. Join thousands of athletes as they traverse various landscapes, including open water and roads, for a 600-yard swim, a 12-mile bike ride, and a 5K run. An award ceremony will be held after the race. Preregistration is required. *James Island County Park, 871 Riverland Dr., Charleston. Sunday, 7am. $72-$66. (843)406-6990, ccprc.com*

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF (CHEERS ON THE PIER) KEEN EYE MARKETING & (TRIATHALON) CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

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PHOTOGRAPH BY GREGG HOFFMAN

2ND SUNDAY ON KING
/// MAY 14

The City of Charleston shuts down King Street from Queen to Calhoun on the second Sunday of every month. Enjoy live music, food, and beverages, plus vendors selling goods for people and pups. *King St. Sunday, noon-5pm. Free. (843)303-1113, shop2ndsunday.com*

MOONLIGHT MIXER
/// MAY 5

With the recent reopening of the Folly Beach Pier, the popular Moonlight Mixer dance series returns. Guests are encouraged to bust out their best shag moves under the stars, getting down to familiar oldies and classic beach music spun by DJ John Dixon. *Folly Beach Pier, 101 E. Arctic Ave., Folly Beach. Friday, 7-10:30pm. $10-$8. (843)762-9516, ccprc.com*

SUNSET MOONRISE BEACH WALK
/// MAY 5

Experience the scenic southwest end of Folly island during twilight hours and into the night. Following the sunset, a naturalist will lead participants on a leisurely walk along the beach under the full moon, pointing out wildlife that call the area home. *Folly Beach County Park, 1100 W. Ashley Ave., Folly Beach. Friday, 7:30-9pm. $9. (843)795-4386, ccrpc.com*

CHARLESTON FARMERS MARKET
/// MAY 7, 14, 21, & 28

Start the weekend off in the heart of downtown at the Charleston Farmers Market. Stroll through Marion Square vendors selling everything from fresh produce to handmade jewelry and artwork while enjoying the fresh air. *329 Meeting St.,*

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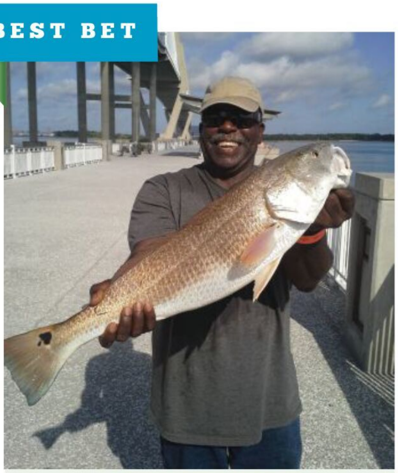

CAST OFF FISHING TOURNAMENT

/// MAY 13 & 27

Anglers of all ages and skill levels are invited to compete and try their hand at hooking red drum, spotted sea trout, and flounder during this season's Cast Off Fishing Tournament. Hosted at the Mount Pleasant Pier (5/13) and the Folly Beach Fishing Pier (5/27), the fishing tourneys offer prizes for the biggest and most fish caught. *Locations vary. Saturdays, 6am-2pm. $10-$5. (843)762-9946 & (843)762-9516, ccrpc.com*

Charleston. Saturday, 8am-2pm. Free. (843)724-7305, charlestonfarmersmarket.com

STARLIGHT YOGA

/// MAY 11

Enjoy a relaxing night of yoga under the stars. Participants will receive a special glow-in-the-dark prize after class, which is open to all abilities and fitness levels. *John's Island County Park, 2662 Mullet Hall Rd., John's Island. Thursday, 7:30pm. $12-$10. (843)762-9965, ccrpc.com*

LIGHTHOUSE INLET BIRD WALK

/// MAY 12

Join local avian experts to explore the diverse land found on the northeast end of Folly Beach. The Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve protects maritime forest, beach, dune, and marsh habitats, offering many bird-watching opportunities. Scout out seasonal visitors, such as painted buntings and Wilson's Plovers, and take in views of the Morris Island Lighthouse. *Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, 1750 East Ashley Ave., Folly Beach. Friday, 8:30-10:30am. $9. (843)795-4386, ccrpc.com*

SIP & STROLL AT DRAYTON HALL

/// MAY 13

Enjoy wine and local brews during an audio tour of Drayton Hall. Walk the grounds and learn about the 18th-century plantation home, a historic property along the Ashley River that survived both the Revolutionary and Civil wars. Attendees receive a complimentary wine glass or koozie. *3380 Ashley River Rd., Charleston. Saturday, 3:30pm. $40-$35. (843)769-2600, draytonhall.org*

WINE ON THE PIAZZA

/// MAY 18

Enjoy a self-guided tour of the Edmondston-Alston House, a Federal-style home built in 1825 that showcases architecture, furnishings, and artifacts from more than 200 years ago. Then, head to the second-floor piazza for views of Charleston Harbor and a glass of red or white. *Edmondston-Alston House, 21 E. Battery, Charleston. Thursday, 4:30-6pm. $30-$25. (843)556-6020, charlestoncvb.com*

OPERA NIGHT AT THE JOE

/// MAY 19

Enjoy an opera-themed night at Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park as the Charleston RiverDogs take on the Delmarva Shorebirds. The evening is part of an annual partnership with local organization Holy City Arts and Lyric Opera (HALO), which stages nontraditional performances to make live theater accessible to all. Enjoy live performances throughout the evening from HALO directors Dimitri Pittas and Leah Edwards, as well as trivia and a fireworks finale. *Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park, 360 Fishburne St., Charleston. Friday, 7:05pm. $115-$8. (843)965-4137, holycityarts.org*

DANCING ON THE COOPER

/// MAY 20

Grab a dancing partner at the Mount Pleasant Pier for an evening of live music and waterfront views. Admire the starry reflection of the Charleston Harbor while listening to classic oldies and beach music from the Shem Creek Boogie Band. *Mount Pleasant Pier, 71 Harry M. Hallman Jr. Blvd., Mount Pleasant. Saturday, 7-10:30pm. $10-$8. (843)795-4386, ccprc.com*

charitable events

KPI OCEANCONNECT BLUE & GRAY GOLF CLASSICS

/// MAY 3

Head to the scenic Dunes West Golf and River Club to support the US Merchant Marine Academy. Golfers can enter the tournament as a single player, a team of two, or a team of four. Dunes West's championship golf course were designed

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by Arthur Hills, offering beautiful marsh and water views. Proceeds benefit the academy's athletics department. *Dunes West Golf & River Club, 3535 Wando Plantation Way, Mount Pleasant. Wednesday, 9am. $900-$225. (516)773-5544, blueandgraygolf.com*

LOWCOUNTRY EMERGENCY SERVICES 5K

/// MAY 6

Formerly known as the Code 3 Miler, this annual event honors fallen deputies of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. Hosted at Boone Hall Plantation, the 5K takes runners through the property's scenic grounds. Proceeds go toward the Mount Pleasant-based nonprofit Southern Paws Animal Rescue. Bring a bag of canned dog or cat food for $10 off registration. *Boone Hall Plantation, 1235 Long Point Rd., Mount Pleasant. 7am. $30. (843)478-1779, eagle-endurance.com*

SAVAGE RACE

/// MAY 6

Conquer the Colossus pipe and more than a dozen other obstacles at the Woodlands Nature Reserve. Racers can choose from the three-mile Savage Blitz or the seven-mile Savage Run, with top winners receiving cash prizes. Savage Race makes charitable contributions to multiple organizations, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and the Boy Scouts of America. *Woodlands Nature Reserve, 4279 Ashley River Rd., Charleston. 9am. $179-$129. savagerace.com*

WARRIOR SURF FOUNDATION CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

/// MAY 12 & 13

Registered golfers in the Warrior Surf Foundation's seventh-annual harity golf tournament can participate in the opening dinner and silent auction on Friday before hitting the course the next day. Proceeds benefit the Warrior Surf Foundation's free 12-week program, which provides wellness coaching and surf instruction for veterans. *Wild Dunes Resort, Harbor Course, 5757 Palm Blvd., Isle of Palms. 11am. $25,000-$800; $75 for opening night dinner. (843)633-2686, warriorsurf.org*

MOMS' RUN

/// MAY 13

Postpartum Support Charleston hosts its largest fundraiser, the 20th-annual Moms' Run. Walkers and runners will start at Philip Simmons High School before making a loop, returning for a day of family-friendly fun. The race benefits Lowcountry women experiencing postpartum mood disorders such as depression, anxiety, and OCD. *Philip Simmons High School, 3080 River Village Dr., Charleston. 7-10am. $30-$15. (843)410-3585, ppdsupport.org*

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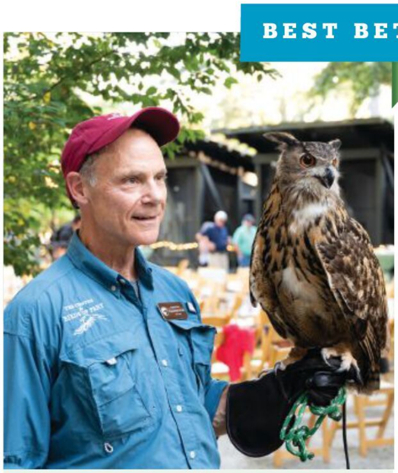

BIRD SONGS

/// MAY 11

Now in its eighth year, this intimate concert at The Center for Birds of Prey features a lineup of talented Nashville songwriters performing in the spirit of the famous Bluebird Café. Guests will enjoy musical performances from country artists, as well as a Lowcountry-inspired supper in support of the center's educational, conservation, and research initiatives. *The Center for Birds of Prey, 4719 Hwy. 17 N., Awendaw. Thursday, 6-9pm. $200. (843)971-7474, thecenterforbirdsofprey.org*

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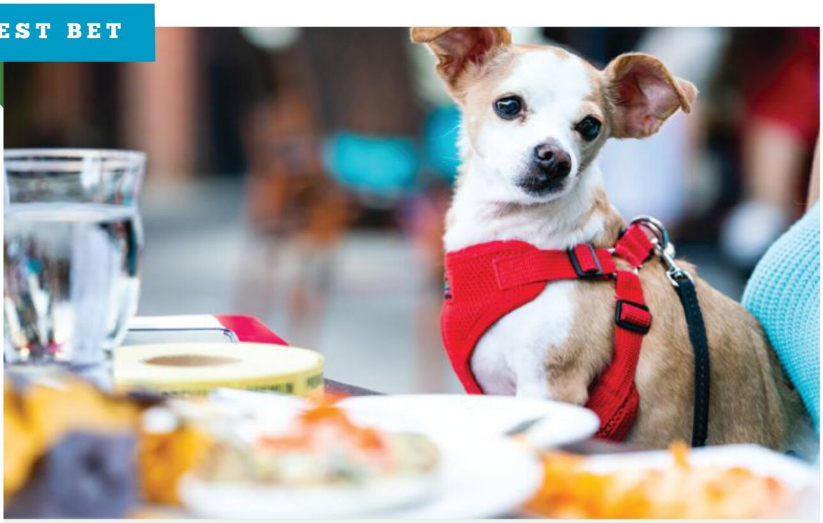

PAWS ON THE PATIO

/// MAY 11

Two and four-legged friends can visit Burtons Grill & Bar for this monthly happy hour benefiting the Charleston Animal Society. Humans receive two drink tickets each and can enjoy a shared platter of appetizers for the table, with snacks and party favors for dogs. Reservations are required, with a portion of ticket proceeds going toward local animals in need. *Burtons Grill & Bar, 1875 Hwy. 17 N., Mount Pleasant. Thursday, 6-8pm. $30 per person. (843)747-4849, charlestonanimalsociety.org*

LIGHT UP LITERACY

/// MAY 18

National nonprofit Reading Partners celebrates 10 years in Charleston with food trucks, live music by 17South, and craft cocktails at Firefly Distillery. Established locally in 2013, the organization collaborates with under-resourced schools and sends volunteers to help students master reading skills. *Firefly Distillery, 4201 Spruill Ave., North Charleston. Thursday, 6-10pm. $100-$20. (843)557-1405, fireflydistillery.com*

CHEF'S POTLUCK

/// MAY 21

Enjoy abundant chef tastings and live music during the 15th-annual Chef's Potluck. Culinary experts from more than 15 eateries—including FIG's Jason Stanhope and chef Kevin Johnson of The Grocery—will partner with area farmers, fisherman, and ranchers to create a culinary extravaganza. Proceeds benefit Lowcountry Local First, an organization dedicated to supporting the economic development of area businesses. *The Porter Room at Holy City Brewery, 1021 Aragon Ave., North Charleston. Sunday, 4-7pm. $125. (843)801-3390, lowcountrylocalfirst.org*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (DOG) JEFF NASS & (OWL) CHRIS SMITH

charleston estate marketplace

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Contact: *Angela Miller*
Phone Number: *(843) 990-8963*
Website: *www.angelamillerteam.net*

201 W ARCTIC AVENUE, 310

➔ folly beach

Enjoy idyllic views of Folly Beach. Inside, the open layout flows seamlessly from the kitchen to the dining and living area. Restaurants, shops, and more are within walking distance. Charleston Oceanfront Villas is a gated community with lush tropical landscaping, 24-hour surveillance cameras, and two oceanfront pools. ***1,620 square feet, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths; $1,399,000***

Contact: *Keith McCann*
Phone Number: *(843) 442-6675*
Website: *www.dunesproperties.com*

2571 HIGH HAMMOCK ROAD

➔ seabrook island

This beautiful home site overlooks the fairway and green of the 7th hole on the Ocean Winds golf course. Close to the beach, clubhouse, and other amenities. Some of the highest ground on Seabrook Island, offering optimal privacy. This is one of the few large vacant lots left on this private island. ***Vacant land, 0.61 acre; $425,000***

Contact: *Joy Millar*
Phone Number: *(843) 425-2816*
Website: *www.dunesproperties.com*

201 HUNTINGTON COURT

➔ walterboro

This beautifully crafted home is tucked away inside the gated community of Sweetbriar. Enjoy an inviting rocking chair front porch, beyond which French doors lead into the office and dining room. Other features include a gas fireplace and a large, private backyard. ***2,792 square feet, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths; $619,000***

Contact: *Angela Miller*
Phone Number: *(843) 990-8963*
Website: *www.angelamillerteam.net*

827 REDBUD LANE

➔ summerville

Located in popular Cane Bay, this home features numerous upgrades, an open concept floor plan, and a beautiful kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, and a large breakfast bar/island. Outside is a beautiful outdoor entertainment area which features a pergola, large concrete patio, and 6-foot privacy fence surrounding the generous backyard. ***2,166 square feet, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths; $380,000***

Contact: *Mark Mitchell, Lisa Mitchell*
Phone Number: *(843) 847-7980, (843) 864-4601*
Website: *www.dunesproperties.com*

40 41 ST AVENUE, G-13

➔ wild dunes marina

This centrally-located 40-ft boat slip features an 8-foot overhang. The regime fee includes dock maintenance and repair, structural insurance, access to private bath house with showers and toilets, cable TV access, trash/recycling, private gated entry and parking, 24-hour electronic security, and more. ***40 foot boat slip; $325,000***

Contact: *Ginn Maiers*
Phone Number: *(843) 696-7402*
Website: *www.dunesproperties.com*

charleston estate marketplace

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

101 TRADD STREET (RENTAL)

➔ south of broad

This gorgeous historic home will be available from May 15th to October 15th. It has a stunning outdoor living space, large primary suite with a separate sitting room, two additional ensuite bedrooms, two off-street parking spaces, and an ideal South of Broad location. ***3,400 square feet, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths; $18,000 monthly***

Contact: *Mary Lou Wertz*
Phone Number: *(843) 822-2500*
Website: *www.maisonchs.com*

MAISON REAL ESTATE

16 LOGAN STREET, B (RENTAL)

➔ south of broad

A charming South of Broad townhome available for rent. The renovated kitchen features granite countertops, and living room includes a gas fireplace and French doors opening to private garden courtyard with a large fountain. Upstairs are two bedrooms, each with ensuite bathrooms. One bedroom has a Juliet balcony overlooking the garden and fountain. Two off-street parking spaces. Unfurnished. ***1,000 square feet, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths; $6,000 monthly***

Contact: *Leslie Turner*
Phone Number: *(843) 367-3722*
Website: *www.maisonchs.com*

MAISON REAL ESTATE

59 LOST VILLAGE TRAIL

➔ edisto island

Take in ocean views from all three levels of this magnificent custom home with high ceilings, spacious rooms, and multiple porches and decks. Enjoy more than two miles of golf cart-friendly beach with almost total privacy. High end features include a gourmet kitchen, an elevator, outdoor kitchen on deck, and panoramic views. ***$2,250,000***

Contact: *Jim Kempson*
Phone Number: *(843) 509-6890*
Website: *www.seaislandrealty.com, www.jimkempson.com*
Email: *jkempson1@gmail.com*

Carolina One Real Estate

120 ALEXANDER STREET

➔ wraggborough

This historic Charleston Duplex offers a great investment opportunity. The front unit has high ceilings, wood floors, lots of windows and an updated kitchen and baths. The charming updated back house has rental history with AirBnB. ***1,000 square feet, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths; $6,000 monthly***

Contact: *Laura Wingate Farish*
Phone Number: *(843) 670-2412*
Website: *www.maisonchs.com*

MAISON REAL ESTATE

36 PRIOLEAU STREET, G (RENTAL)

➔ french quarter

Luxurious executive rental at One Vendue Range. Fully furnished and newly renovated, this light filled condo offers open floor plan living, a spacious primary suite and guest room with private bath. There is covered and secure parking with a gated entrance. Lease includes one parking space. ***2,273 square feet, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths; $10,000 monthly***

Contact: *Laura Wingate Farish*
Phone Number: *(843) 670-2412*
Website: *www.maisonchs.com*

MAISON REAL ESTATE

2802 POINT STREET

➔ edisto island

This two-story oceanfront classic with a cupola offers high ceilings, pecky cypress paneling, wood parquet and tile floors, and beatiful beach views. Located on desirable Point Street, sold as is. ***$1,250,000***

Contact: *Jim Kempson*
Phone Number: *(843) 509-6890*
Website: *www.seaislandrealty.com, www.jimkempson.com*
Email: *jkempson1@gmail.com*

Carolina One Real Estate

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

107 MAY LANE

mount pleasant

Constructed in 2020, this Old Mount Pleasant residence features a modern open floor plan with vaulted ceiling and a back porch which overlooks a wonderful landscaped yard. The kitchen is open to the living/dining room with a wood burning fireplace. *1,767 square feet, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths; $1,390,000*

For instant photos and details text 107maylane to 59559.

Contact: *Lois Lane*
Phone Number: *(843) 270-2797*
Website: *www.loislaneproperties.com*

LOIS LANE PROPERTIES

67 PITT STREET UNIT A, B, & C

radcliffeborough

Brimming with charm and situated in the downtown Radcliffeborough neighborhood, 67 Pitt Street (Units A, B, and C) offers buyers a positive investment opportunity in the vibrant Charleston real estate market. Two detached structures house three units just mere blocks from MUSC and the College of Charleston. *4,752 square feet, 10 bedrooms, 6 baths; $2,599,000*

Contact: *Middleton Rutledge*
Phone Number: *(843) 345-9137*
Website: *www.danielravenelsir.com*

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

6 HARBORVIEW CIRCLE

beaufort

Crafted by Allen Patterson Builders, this cottage will take full advantage of the surrounding area. Located on a quiet street near the new waterfront park on Lady's Island, the home's construction is currently underway. *4 bedrooms, 3 baths; $947,750*

Contact: *Michael Mark, Michelle Gibbons*
Phone Number: *(843) 812-6023, (843) 597-2188*
Website: *www.charteronerealty.com*

CHARTERONE REALTY

104 HOWARD MARY DRIVE, UNIT B

folly beach to battery island

Located five minutes from Folly Beach and a short drive to downtown, this elevated home features hardwood floors throughout, rear porches on both levels, an open kitchen, granite countertops, a fireplace, two car garage, and expansive driveway. The neighborhood offers a gathering space with marsh views and a firepit. *1,684 square feet, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths; $629,000*

For instant photos and details text 104howardmaryb to 59559.

Contact: *Keelin Love*
Phone Number: *(843) 224-2194*
Website: *www.loislaneproperties.com*

LOIS LANE PROPERTIES

6091 BOLSENA PLACE

myrtle beach

Gorgeous home in Waterside Pointe, a 55+ community. Includes a great room with natural gas fireplace, formal dining with stunning chandelier, and gorgeous porcelain tile throughout. The kitchen features a gas cooktop, large center island, and breakfast area. Includes a garage with room for two vehicles and golf cart storage. Take advantage of the screened veranda leads to the heated, in-ground pool. *4,162 square feet, 3-4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths; $1,217,000*

Contact: *Traci Miles*
Phone Number: *(843) 997-8891*
Website: *www.tracimiles.com*

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Boling & Associates, Inc.

908 SCOTT STREET

beaufort

Constructed in 1898, the Captain William Eider Von Harten House has been meticulously maintained. The classic layout is designed to take advantage breezes of summer. Double porches greet you when you arrive, and another set of double porches look over the large acre lot. This structure's history includes a fire in 1941 and a stint as a boarding house. *3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths; $895,000*

Contact: *Michael Mark, Michelle Gibbons*
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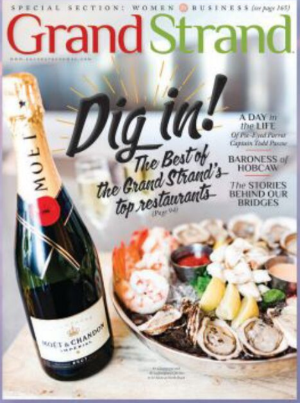
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(flashback)

A Fond Farewell

Our hearts were heavy last fall when we learned of the passing of Geoff Nuttall, Spoleto Festival USA's beloved director of chamber music. Known for his wild suits and hair matching an outsize stage presence (not to mention a staggering command of classical music history), the violinist, music education advocate, and founding member of the renowned St. Lawrence String Quartet first performed during the Spoleto series in 1995, when the quartet was invited by then-director Charles Wadsworth. Nuttall returned year after year, and in 2009 was appointed Wadsworth's successor, infusing the classical canon with humor and infectious enthusiasm. In our May 2019 feature on Nuttall, he said he felt like an honorary Charlestonian: "I've lived in this city for at least three weeks every year since 1995. My wife [violinist Livia Sohn] and I got married here.... In my early years as a musician, I was on the road so much that Charleston was the one place I'd be for the longest chunk of time." While Spoleto will never be the same without him, a memorial concert celebrating his life and his contributions will be held at the Gaillard Center on May 26, featuring the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, musical colleagues, and special guests. A soirée benefitting the Geoff Nuttall Legacy Fund, which provides chamber music programming to local schools, follows. Additionally, large-scale prints of Nuttall, taken by photographer Bill Struhs, will be on display in Ansonborough's Theodora Park throughout this year's festival. Rest in peace, kind sir.

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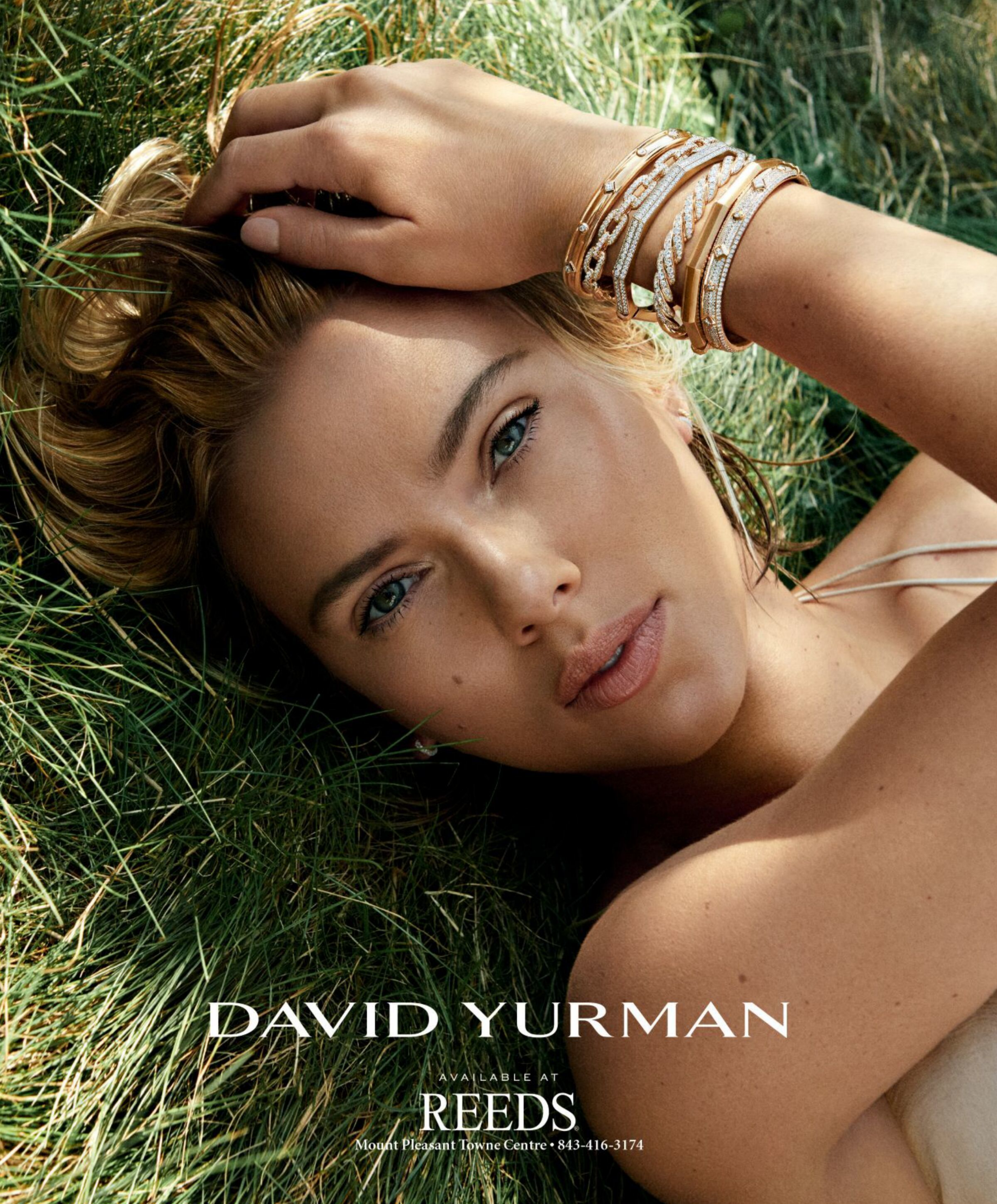

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